

YORKWAC Infobase

Data-driven Research Papers: Reporting Your Findings

In this part of the paper (also called the results section) you provide the reader with the analysis of the collected data. Report your findings in a concise and objective manner.

Here are a few things you should keep in mind while writing your Results section:

1. *Your question/hypothesis*

Determine which results to present by deciding which are relevant to your research question or hypothesis, irrespective of whether or not the results support it. The Results section *does not* need to include every result you obtained or observed.

2. *Data organization*

Organize the data in either chronological order according to the Methods or in order of most to least important. Within each paragraph, the order of most to least important results should be followed. If possible, determine whether the data are best presented in the form of text, figures, graphs, or tables and then summarize it accordingly. Remember that the text should complement the figures or tables and not repeat the same information – the goal is to have your Results section succinct and informative with no extra words.

3. *Problems*

If some problems arose during your study (for example, you have missing data), mention those problems but save the discussion of the problem for the discussion section.

4. *Tense*

The Results section is usually written in past tense.

Remember: Write with accuracy, brevity, clarity – and *do not* interpret your data!

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your data-driven research paper, you might want to try:

Infosheet #7, Organizing a Data-driven Research Paper

Infosheet #8, Data-driven Research Papers: The Introduction

Infosheet #9, Data-driven Research Papers: Research Design and Methods

Infosheet #11, Data-driven Research Papers: Writing Your Discussion