Running head: ABBREVIATION OF TITLE UP TO FIFTY CHARACTERS

Full title of paper: Notice that only the first word and the first word after the colon are capitalized

Name

University

Mailing Address

Town, State

Phone

Email

DEBUT

\* I am happy to present this in a panel session or present the research in a Poster format

FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. L. Martin Smith, University, Town, Phone, Email

Abstract

This is where you put the abstract. Do not indent it. The abstract should summarize the main points of the paper. It should include 1 to 2 sentences giving the topic and hypothesis of the paper. It should also have a few to several sentences for each of the following: the method of the study, the conclusions of the study if your findings support your hypothesis and potential implications of the findings (In a proposal, what you hope to find). The content of the abstract should between 75 and 100 words.

KEYWORDS: alphabetically list the three to six words that would be used to search for your paper in a search engine

*In submitting the attached paper or proposal, I/We recognize that this submission is considered a professional responsibility. If this submission is accepted and programmed, I/We agree to register for the 2015 ECA Undergraduate Scholars Convention, pay the $50 USC fee, and present in Philadelphia. I/We understand that presenters with last minute emergencies must make arrangements as possible for an alternate presenter as well as communicate their absences to the Undergraduate Scholars Planner; no shows will be removed from the official program.*

Full Title of the Paper

This is the introduction part of your paper. The first paragraph should introduce the reader to the problem investigated in the study. Give general statements in the first paragraph. End the first paragraph with a purpose statement. What is the purpose of your proposed research design? You need to let the reader know what it is you will be discussing before you jump into the next part of the introduction section. Introduction should move from broadest to more specific and is about 1-1.5 pages.

Literature Review

For the next part of the introduction, you want to review the relevant literature to your project. Here, you need to give a synopsis of the theories and ideas associated with your topic and review relevant studies. Include the findings of previous studies and how the studies and theories are relevant to your topic. Remember to start from the general nature of the problem and become more specific as you write the introduction. The best way of thinking of this is as an inverted triangle.

Make sure to use your own words. Do not overuse quotations. When citing someone's research, you may end the sentence or paragraph that is reviewing the study by giving the following type of citation (Smith, 2000). You may also start the paragraph or sentence by mentioning their name and then putting the year in parentheses. Smith (2000) found that the reaction time was slower when participants were exposed to music than when they were not exposed to music. When there are three, four, or five authors, list all author's last names the first time they are mentioned, and then use et al. after the first author whenever the citation is used again. After I discuss the literature the first time, I cite like this (Thomas, Smith, James, Watson, & Monk, 1996). The next time I cite this same study, I cite like this (Thomas et al., 1996). When there are six or more authors, always put the first author followed by et al. For examples of these and other citations see the APA manual.

Be careful in your word choice, making sure that you are not showing bias in your writing. You can check the manual to make sure that you are not using incorrect terminology. Remember that this is a scientific paper so do not use flowery expressions. Also remember that you are not an expert. Any idea has to have a citation. Do not make vague statements like, everyone gets depressed once in a while. This is an opinion from your personal experience and has no place in this type of paper. Instead use a reference that gives you the incidence of depression and cite this reference.

Once you get to the last paragraph of your introduction, restate the purpose of your study, including a brief description of your study. You want to explain how your study goes beyond past research or if it is a replication of past research and why. Also include your hypothesis and be very specific when writing it. You will want to make predictions concerning all levels of your independent variable and how they will influence your dependent variables. Be as specific as possible. Always remember: do not use "you" in your paper, do not say you are trying to prove your hypothesis, and write in present tense when discussing your proposed study.

\*\*Remember to include research questions and/or hypotheses with brief explanations.

Method

*Participants (or Subjects) – Sample*

This is where you will describe the participants or subjects of your study. Use subjects when referring to animals and participants when referring to humans. Remember to include the type of participant or subject you will have (adults, children, type of animal), how you plan to recruit your participants or get your subjects and any compensation for participation. If you are using animals, you will need to give the species name in italics (*Macaca mulatta*). When you have human participants you need to describe any important characteristic of the participants (e.g. age range, gender…. and anything that is relevant for your study. e.g. If I am studying obesity, I would include the weight ranges for my groups). Also list the exact number of participants or subjects in each of your groups and remember to use Arabic numerals to represent specific numbers of participants and ages of participants, for example: I will recruit 30, 3-years-olds for the study.

*Materials (NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL – Recommended for experiments)*

This is where you list the materials you will use in your study, including any questionnaires or apparatus. Basic information, such as pencil and paper, need not be added. If you will use specific equipment, such as VCRs, or TVs, be sure to include the make and model number for that equipment. If you will have materials such as a word list, include it as an appendix and refer to it like this (see Appendix).

*Procedure*

This is where you lay out the procedure you will use in the experiment. Make sure you are specific in detailing the study. You want to say what will be done, how it will be done, and in what order it will be done. How will you measure the DV? What will be the experimental environment? You want the reader to be able to use your procedure subsection to replicate your experiment exactly. This includes length of testing time, instructions to participants, and how subjects or participants will be assigned to conditions. You should also give the operational definitions of your variables in this section.

*Variable Operationalization*

In this section, you will discuss the different aspects of your research instrument. For content analysis, you will explain the different categories you’re coding. In a survey, focus groups, and interview guide, you will discuss and explain the different areas of questions. For an experiment, you will provide information about your stimulus and your pre- and/or posttest questionnaire. It is helpful to provide examples to explain more complex categories or questions. Be specific and thorough with your explanations. The reader should have the ability to replicate your study from your methods section.

Results

In a research paper, this is where you would include the results of the study. You do not interpret the results, just report them. In a research proposal, this section includes how you plan to analyze the data. Because this is a proposal and since you have not had the psychology statistics course, you will not include this section in your proposal.

Discussion

Since this is a proposal, not a write-up of a study you conducted, you will not include a discussion section. But for future reference, the first sentence of your discussion should be a statement concerning whether or not the results supported your hypothesis. How do your findings relate to the original experimental question? Remember that we do not prove anything in science. Your results either supported your hypothesis or did not support your hypothesis.

You should evaluate and attempt to explain your findings in relation to the background literature you reviewed in the introduction section. Does your study support the theories you discussed in the introduction section? What did previous studies find? What did you find? Are your findings contrary to previous findings? If so, give possible reasons for the discrepancy. For example, maybe you used a different procedure or different type of participant. Remember to cite all studies you discuss. After relating your study to studies cited in your introduction, discuss possible confounds and how they may have influenced your results.

Give an alternative hypothesis for your results. Is there some other explanation for the results that you found? Make sure to indicate the limitations of your research and give suggestions for how you could have done the study differently. Also discuss generalizations of your study, such as what other populations you would feel comfortable generalizing your results to and why.

Discuss insights gained from this study and how they may be used in real world situations. Give suggestions for future research and what you would propose for your next study in this area. End the paper with a summary paragraph of the conclusions of the study, reiterating your major findings and the implications of these findings to the scientific or real world.

References

Smith, J. J. (2000). This is an example of a simple book chapter. In S. M. Jones (Ed.), *The title of the book* (pp. 25-35). Anywhere, GA: Any Publisher.

Jones, S. M., & Smith, J. J. (2000). This is how you reference a journal article and you put the title of the article here. *The Title of the Journal, 6,* 36-42.

Appendix (Research Instrument, tables, etc.)

\*\*\*After your reference, attach your research instrument as an appendix. Make sure to reference it in your method section (e.g. For full survey, please see appendix.)