

Outcome 3: Research Investigation – Hints, Layout and Language

Research Question

Write a broad research question which indicates the main topic of your poster.

Introduction

The introduction of a scientific report is like a whole essay in itself. The introduction must have its own introductory paragraph and a number of body paragraphs.

Key concepts should be defined and explained, with examples, studies and appropriate diagrams, if necessary.

Referring to studies

Give the name/s and year of publication of the scientist/s or psychologist/s involved. Then ensure that a clear reference to this study is provided in your References section. Your introduction should refer to three studies, one of which should be your featured study (the one you describe in more detail in your Method and Results section).

Featured study

Focus on one chosen study for closer analysis and state its hypothesis at the close of your introduction.

Method

Refer in this section to your featured study.

- Subjects/Participants
- Materials
- Procedure



Results

Refer in this section to your featured study. You may choose to include a table or graph from the study, but you must describe the findings in your own words. Don't forget to label the graph or table.

Discussion

Describe and evaluate the results of your featured study. Did it have any limitations? Are there ideas for future research in this area?

Draw together the threads in your introduction. What have you found out about the research question? What conclusions can you draw?

What is some further research that could be undertaken?

What are the implications of your research for particular groups, e.g. children, adolescents, aged people, people with mental illness? What possible actions might be required to deal with problems or issues raised by the research?

References

All the titles of your research studies, as well as links to relevant documentation, should be provided in this section.

Diagrams and illustrations

Do not simply copy a picture from an internet site. If you wish to include a diagram, explanation or concept map in pictorial form, make sure you design it yourself.

Logbook

Maintain a digital logbook of your progress from week to week.

Useful Phrasing for Research Investigation

This kind of wording is formal, restrained and detached in tone. Using this kind of wording does not always come easily and naturally. The examples below may help you to develop your formal expression.

...may **influence**...

...can have a **detrimental effect** on...

...may **play a role in**...

... _____ is a **risk factor** in the development of...

... this study **suggests** that...

... this study **provides evidence** that...

... there appears to be a **positive association** between...

... the findings **indicate** that...

... the results **cast some doubt upon** the view that..

... the presence of this factor/these factors **increases the probability** that...

... this may **impair the capacity** to...

... this factor/these factors may be **linked with** the development of...

... these findings **support / mirror the results** of the study by...

... it must be **emphasised** that...

... the findings **underscore** the need for...

... the study did not **establish** whether...

... these behavioural responses have been **linked** with...

... this **raises** concerns for...

... this may **lead** to...

