

Writing your Discussion

Unit 2 – Area of Study 3

1 Was your hypothesis supported or not supported by the results? Interpret your results.

Sentence starters:

- The hypothesis that...was/was not supported by the findings of this study.
- Since the difference between [Group 1/Group2] was dramatic/quite small, it can be concluded that...
- This indicates/shows/suggests/demonstrates that...

2 Go on to analyse and tease out possible interpretations of your results.

Sentence starters:

- Although the hypothesis was not supported, it was interesting to note that an unexpected result occurred...
- While the total means for the Likert Scale were similar, there were some differences between groups on individual items...
- Younger participants tended to prefer..., while older participants...
- Although the colour of the yoghurt did not appear to affect the participants' perception of the intensity of the flavour, it did seem to cloak the original flavour to some degree, as shown by...

3 Refer back to the studies and ideas in your introduction. How was your study similar to or different from those you referred to there?

Sentence starters:

- While this study produced similar results to Dowling and Lange's (2021) ground-breaking study of the effects of expectation on visual perception, it also raised challenging new questions...
- In stark contrast to the study by Nguyen (2022), this study suggested that participants with low self-esteem perceive themselves as...
- This study, like that of Motet and Ngooi (2023), revealed that there is a link between...

4 How could the methodology of your study have been adapted, improved or extended? What further research could be undertaken?

Sentence starters:

- One possible limitation of this study was that...
- A more effective procedure would entail...
- A clear fault in the methodology was the lack of...
- The sample was clearly not representative of...
- It would be worthwhile to explore...further...

5 What are the implications of your research for particular groups, e.g. teenagers, students, children, older adults? How might the findings be applied by psychologists, educators, advertisers, parents and others?

Sentence starters:

- This study makes it clear that students tend to suffer from...
- The effect of expectation on visual perception indicates clearly that...
- While young people's attitudes towards sport are positive, those of older people indicate that...