APA Manual

6th Edition
Lecture by Sahaya G. Selvam
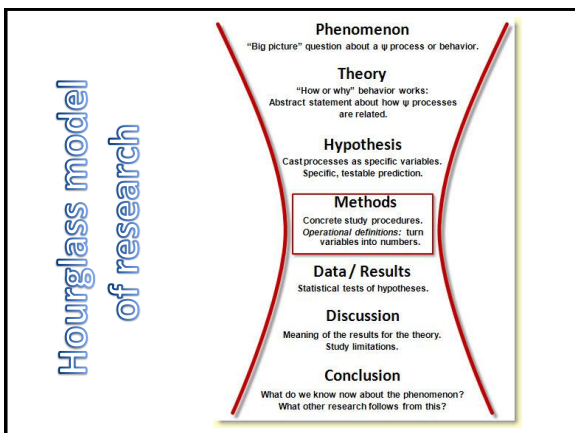
Institute of Youth Studies
Tangaza University College, Nairobi

Scientific Procedure

1. Phenomenon

Literature Review

4. Theory/Model

2. Hypothesis

3. Verification

Francis Bacon (1561 –1626)

Research Report (APA)

Title

Abstract (100-120 words)

Introduction

Method

Results

Discussion

Conclusion
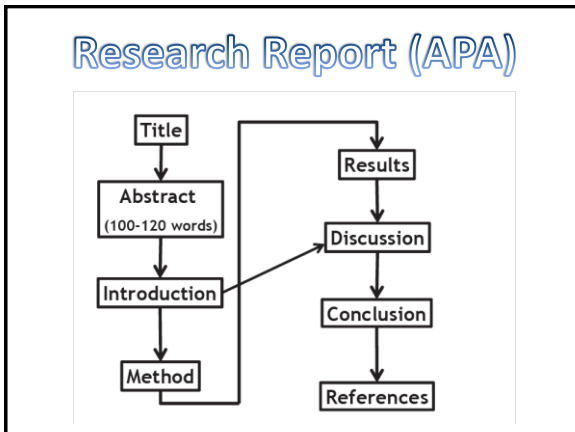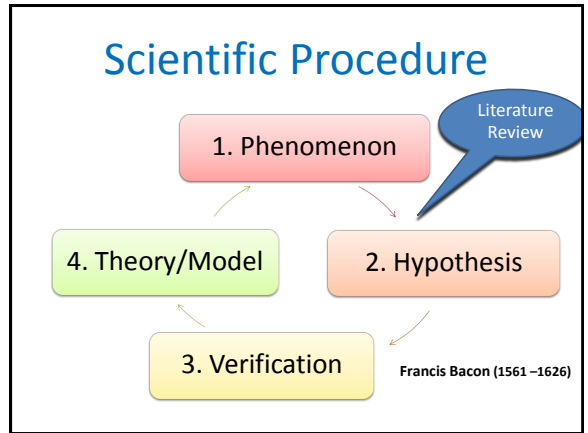
References

Outline of a Dissertation

Abstract
Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Literature Review
Chapter 3: Method
Chapter 4: Results
Chapter 5: Discussion
(Chapter 6: Conclusion)
References
Appendices

Dissertation Versus Thesis

Background versus Problem statement

Method versus Methodology

Hourglass model of research

Phenomenon
"Big picture" question about a ψ process or behavior.

Theory
"How or why" behavior works: Abstract statement about how ψ processes are related.

Hypothesis
Cast processes as specific variables. Specific, testable prediction.

Methods
Concrete study procedures. *Operational definitions:* turn variables into numbers.

Data / Results
Statistical tests of hypotheses.

Discussion
Meaning of the results for the theory. Study limitations.

Conclusion
What do we know now about the phenomenon? What other research follows from this?

Title

- A title should summarize the main idea of the manuscript simply.
- It should be a concise statement of the main topic and should identify the variables or theoretical issues under investigation and the relationship between them.
- The recommended length for a title is no more than 12 words.
- The words *method* and *results* do not normally appear in a title, nor should such terms as *A Study of* or *An Experimental Investigation of.* Occasionally a term such as *a research synthesis* or *a meta-analysis* or *FMRI study of* conveys important information for the potential reader and is included in the title.

Abstract

- An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article/report;
- It allows readers to survey the contents of an article quickly and, like a title, it enables persons interested in the document to retrieve it from abstracting and indexing databases.

Introduction

- The body of a manuscript opens with an introduction that presents the specific problem under study and describes the research strategy.
- Why is this problem important?
- How does the study relate to previous work in the area? If other aspects of this study have been reported previously, how does this report differ from, and build on, the earlier report?
- What are the primary and secondary hypotheses and objectives of the study, and what, if any, are the links to theory?
- How do the hypotheses and research design relate to one another?
- What are the theoretical and practical implications of the study?

Method

- The Method section describes in detail how the study was conducted, including conceptual and operational definitions of the variables used in the study;
- Different types of studies will rely on different methodologies; however, a complete description of the methods used enables the reader to evaluate the appropriateness of your methods and the reliability and the validity of your results; It also permits experienced investigators to replicate the study.

Include:
- **Research design.**
- **Participant (subject) characteristics.**
- **Sampling procedures.**
- **Measures and covariates**
- **Experimental manipulations or interventions**

Results

- In the Results section, summarize the collected data and the analysis performed on those data relevant to the discourse that is to follow.
- Report the data in sufficient detail to Justify your conclusions. Mention all relevant results, including those that run counter to expectation; be sure to include small effect sizes (or statistically non-significant findings) when theory predicts large (or statistically significant) ones.
- Do not hide uncomfortable results by omission.

Discussion

- After presenting the results, you are in a position to evaluate and interpret their implications, especially with respect to your original hypotheses.
- Here you will examine, interpret, and qualify the results and draw inferences and conclusions from them.
- Emphasize any theoretical or practical consequences of the results. (When the discussion is relatively brief and straightforward, some authors prefer to combine it with the Results section, creating a section called Results and Discussion.)

Quotation Marks

Correct:
- considered "normal" behavior;
- the "good-outcome" variable ... the good-outcome variable [no quotation marks after the initial usage]

Incorrect:
- considered 'normal' behavior
- the "good-outcome" variable ... the "good-outcome" variable

- **In text.** Use double quotation marks to enclose quotations in text. Use single quotation marks within double quotation marks to set off material that in the original source was enclosed in double quotation marks.
- **In block quotations (any quotations of 40 or more words).** Do not use quotation marks to enclose block quotations. Do use double quotation marks to enclose any quoted: material within a block quotation.

Levels of heading

Level 1 Chapter Title	**Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and lowercase Heading (Title Case)**
Level 2	**Flush left, Boldface, Uppercase and lowercase Heading**
Level 3	**Indented, boldface, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.**
Level 4	***Indented, boldface, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.***
Level 5	*Indented, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.*

Language and style

- Gender sensitive
- A person with hearing impairment, rather than a deaf person; a child with autism rather than a autistic child.
- **Semicolon**
- Use a semicolon to separate two independent clauses that are not joined by a conjunction.
- The participants in the first study were paid; those in the second were unpaid.
- **Use a colon**
- • between a grammatically complete introductory clause (one that could stand as a
- sentence) and a final phrase or clause that illustrates, extends, or amplifies the precedmg
- thought. If the clause following the colon is a complete sentence it begins
- with a capital letter. '
- For example, Freud (1930/1961) wrote of two urges: an urge toward union with others and an egoistic urge toward happiness.

- **Numbers**
- The general rule governing APA Style on the use of numbers is to use numerals to express numbers 10 and above and words to express numbers below 10.

References

- References acknowledge the work of previous scholars and provide a reliable way to locate it.
- The references cited in the manuscript do not need to be exhaustive but should be sufficient to support the need for your research and to ensure that readers can place it in the context of previous research and theorizing.
- The standard procedures for citation ensure that references are accurate, complete, and useful to investigators and readers.
- Start the reference list on a new page. The word *References* should appear in uppercase and lowercase letters, centered. Double-space all reference entries. APA publishes references in a *hanging indent* format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented.
- Entries are arranged in alphabetical order of the surname of the author.

Some samples of in-text referencing

Religious coping examines how people seek or maintain significance in times of stress; "that significance may be material (e.g., a house), physical (e.g., health), social (e.g., intimate relationships), psychological (e.g., meaning), or spiritual (e.g., closeness with God)" (Pargament, 1997, p.216). The same is true of other psychologists like Emmons (1999; 2006).

Belzen (2010) has suggested that psychology be culturally sensitive, particularly when studying religious phenomena. To achieve this, he calls for a dialogue between cultural psychology and psychology of religion. This dialogue is already taking place within positive psychology. Haidt (2003) invited scholars within positive psychology to look "to other cultures and other historical eras for ideas and perspectives on virtue and the good life" (p.275).

More samples of in-text referencing

- Maltby and Hill (2008) envisioned religion to be a fertile ground for positive psychologists to study systematically the "common denominators" of virtues and character strengths. There have been other similar efforts in facilitating a dialogue between positive psychology and various religious and cultural traditions, either in support, or in critique, of positive psychology and its constructs (Chu & Diener, 2009; Delle Fave & Bassi, 2009; Joseph, Linley, & Maltby, 2006; Sundararajan, 2005; Vitz, 2005; Watts, Dutton, & Gulliford, 2006; Zagano & Gillespie, 2006).

In-text Referencing

- Kessler (2003) found that among epidemiological samples
- Early onset results in a more persistent and severe course (Kessler, 2003).
- In 2003, Kessler's study of epidemiological samples showed that

- Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) found [Use as first citation in text.]
- Kisangau et al. (2007) found [Use as subsequent first citation per paragraph thereafter.]

Style

Numbers
- The general rule governing APA Style on the use of numbers is to use numerals to express numbers 10 and above and words to express numbers below 10.

Use of Semicolon (;)
- to separate two independent clauses that are not joined by a conjunction.
- to separate elements in a series that already contain commas.

Use of Colon (:)
- among other uses, before a list of items.

Language:
- Gender sensitive
- A person with hearing impairment, rather than a deaf person; a child with autism rather than a autistic child.

Sample Table 1

Table 5.11
Stepwise Multiple Linear Regression for Character Strengths Predicting CIUS (N= 500)

Dimensions of RSWB	Model 1				Model 2			
	B	SE	β	t	B	SE	β	t
Love for Learning	1.766	.821	.096	2.150*	3.911	.989	.212	3.954***
Persistence					-3.959	1.046	-.203	-3.784***
Adjusted R²			.007				.033	
F			4.621*				9.533***	

Note: significance levels: *p<.05; **p <.01; ***p <.001
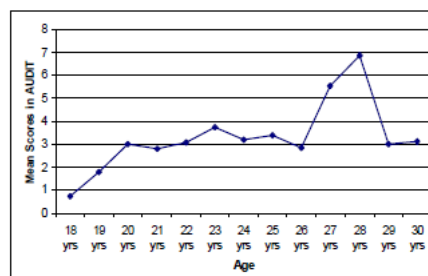

Figure 5.4. Age and alcohol misuse
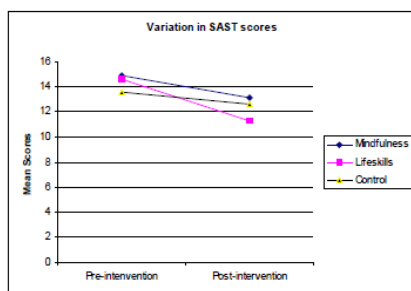
Spot a mistake!

Figure 5.10.

References

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How to cite a website

When there is no author for a web page, the title moves to the first position of the reference entry:

Example:
New child vaccine gets funding boost. (2001). Retrieved March 21, 2001, from http://news.ninemsn.com.au/health/story_13178.asp

Cite in text the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and the year. Use double quotation marks around the title or abbreviated title: ("New Child Vaccine," 2001).

When there is an author for a web page:

Cain, K. (2012). The Negative Effects of Facebook on Communication. *Social Media Today RSS*. Retrieved January 3, 2013, from http://socialmediatoday.com.

Visit
http://www.apastyle.org/

Thank You

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