

Psychology 303

Week 2 Day 1

Today

- Writing an introduction
- Writing reminders
- Homework 3

Assignments

HW1	Choosing a Research Question & Defining the Hypothesis(es)	P1
HW2	Research Article Summaries & References (Friday by 5pm)	P1
PRES 1	Literature Review (Tuesday, October 9th)	P1
HW3	Draft Introduction & Method (Friday, October 12th by 5pm)	P1
HW4	Results Output, Write-up, & Draft Discussion	P1
HW5	Peer Editing for Correlational Paper	P1
HW6	Draft Abstract for Correlational Paper	P2
HW7	Research Article Summaries, Reference List, & Hypothesis(es)	P2
HW8	Experimental Results Output, Write-up, & Draft Discussion	P2
PRES 2	Future Directions	P2
HW9	Peer Edit for Experimental Paper	P2

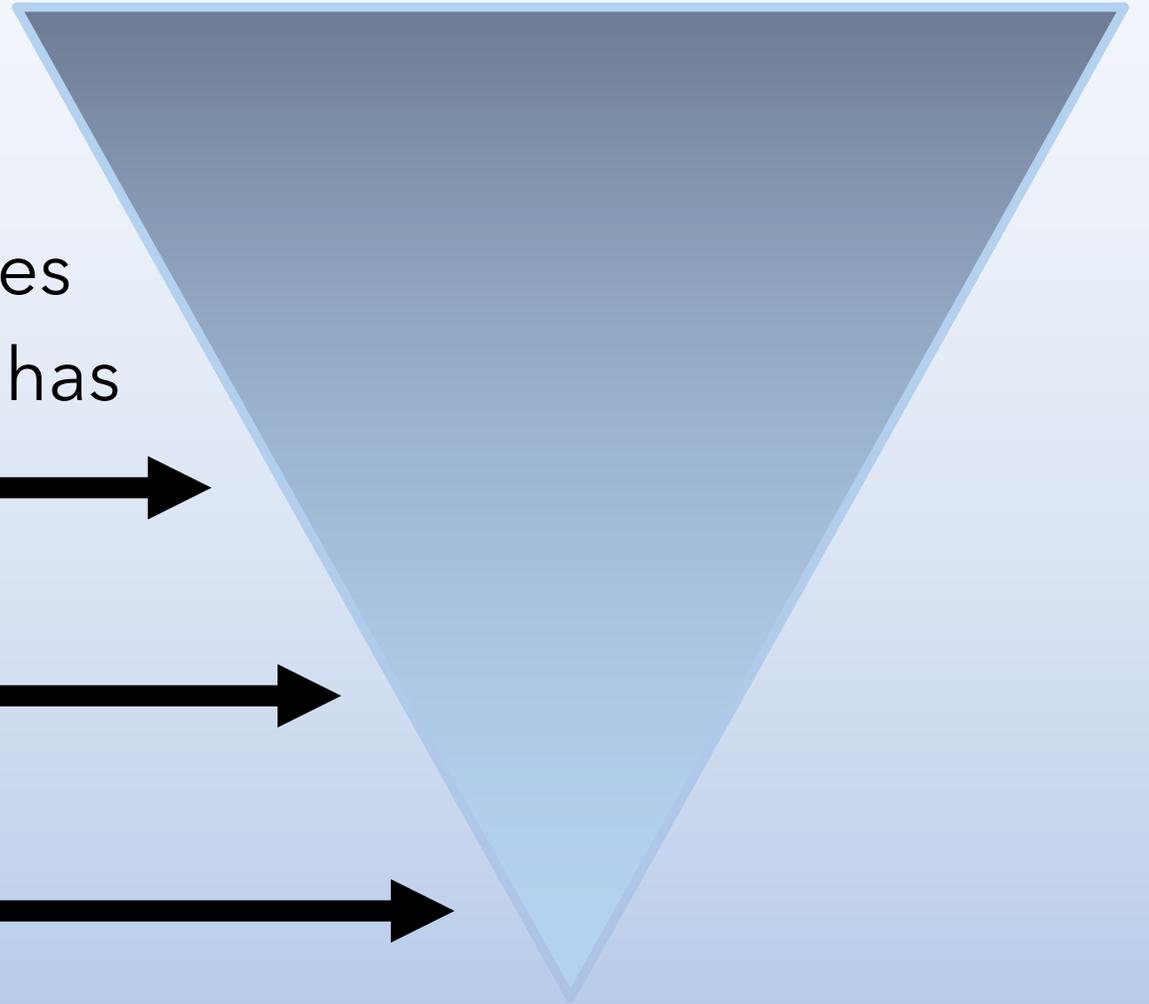
Writing an introduction

Introductory paragraph →

Literature review of relevant studies
to show reader how the question has
been investigated thus far →

Rationale for current study →

Hypothesis →



Writing an introduction: Intro Paragraph

- Generally 1-2 paragraphs
- Introduces the topic in a way that grabs the reader's attention
- If there is a theory that the research is based on, it gives an overview of what the theory is, who developed it, and how it relates to the research topic
- Introduces the reader to the constructs (i.e., variables) involved in the study
- Conveys why the research topic is important

Writing an introduction: Intro Paragraph

- Examples:

- *The basic news lede:*

Strohminger and Nichols (2014, 2015) recently proposed that morality is central to identity; a phenomenon they aptly termed the *Essential Moral Self*...

- *The narrative lede:*

On a late afternoon in 1848, twenty-five-year-old railroad foreman Phineas Gage was finishing up his day of work when he, either due to his own negligence or negligence on the part of his assistant, caused a spark that launched his tamping iron rapidly upward. The nearly fourteen-pound, four-foot instrument entered below his left cheekbone and exited through the top of his skull, taking a particularly unfortunate route through his left frontal lobe. In an instant, he was transformed from a virtuous, morally-upright citizen to a contemptible wretch, exhibiting aggression, impulsivity, caprice, and sexual promiscuity. His friends solemnly declared that Gage was “no longer Gage” (Harlow, 1869, p. 14).

Strohminger and Nichols (2014, 2015) recently attributed this declaration to the fact that Gage had lost his moral compass, contending that morality is central to identity; a phenomenon they aptly termed the *Essential Moral Self*.

Writing an introduction: Literature Rev.

- Literature Review (4-∞ paragraphs)
 - Provides a summary of previous articles and how they support the hypothesis
 - Doesn't just summarize the articles one at a time. It interweaves the most important aspects of the previous studies that relate to the hypothesis

Writing an introduction: Literature Rev.

- My method: Sort by similarity
 1. Create a pool of findings:
 - Students in economics/business majors score higher in Machiavellianism than students in psychology (Vedel & Thomsen, 2017).
 - Machiavellians who view themselves as being in positions of powers engage in abusive supervision (Wisse & Sleebos, 2016).
 - Those high in psychopathy appear to cheat on tests more (Nathanson, Paulhus, & Williams, 2006; Williams, Nathanson, & Paulhus, 2010).
 - Psychopathy is positively correlated with realistic and practical interests and negatively correlated with cultured interests (Jonason, Wee, Li, & Jackson, 2014).
 - Employee Machiavellianism independently and negatively predicts employee innovative behaviour (Wisse, Barelds, & Rietzschel, 2015).

Writing an introduction: Literature Rev.

2. Sort

- The Dark Triad at school
 - Machiavellianism
 - Students in economics/business majors score higher in Machiavellianism than students in psychology (Vedel & Thomsen, 2017).
 - Psychopathy
 - Those high in psychopathy appear to cheat on tests more (Nathanson, Paulhus, & Williams, 2006; Williams, Nathanson, & Paulhus, 2010).
- The Dark Triad in the workplace
 - Machiavellianism
 - Machiavellians who view themselves as being in positions of powers engage in abusive supervision (Wisse & Sleebos, 2016).
 - Employee Machiavellianism independently and negatively predicts employee innovative behaviour (Wisse, Barelds, & Rietzschel, 2015).
 - Psychopathy
 - Psychopathy is positively correlated with realistic and practical vocational interests and negatively correlated with cultured interests (Jonason, Wee, Li, & Jackson, 2014).

Writing an introduction

- Rationale for current study (1-3 paragraphs)
 - Describe how your study is building off previous studies
 - Describe why your study will expand knowledge in this area
- State your hypothesis (~1 paragraph)
 - The hypothesis should lead logically from the above sections

Writing reminders

- *Its* is possessive; *it's* is a contraction that means *it is*
 - E.g., The robot waved **its** metallic claw.
 - E.g., **It's** saying hello.
- *A comma splice* is the use of a comma to combine two independent clauses. It is an error.
 - E.g., I like the robot, it is my friend. (wrong)
 - E.g., I like the robot; it is my friend. (right)
 - E.g., I like the robot. It is my friend. (also right)

Writing reminders

- A misplaced/dangling modifier is a word/phrase that modifies a word that is not present in your sentence or a word that it is not meant to modify.
 - e.g., After waving its hand, we waved back. (wrong)
 - e.g., After the robot waves its hand, we waved back. (right)
 - e.g., Beeping, we pushed the robot over. (wrong)
 - e.g., We pushed the beeping robot over. (right)

Homework 3

- Draft of an introduction and methods section
- Times New Roman, 12-pt font, double-spaced
- It must include a reference section
- Due Friday, October 12th
- Refer to the APA 6th edition manual for more details on how to write an introduction and methods; there is a copy available at the library