

What Goes in the Results Section?

The basics:

- ★ The results section of a research paper should ONLY include your results/findings; this includes data presented in tables, charts, and figures, as well as written results.
- ★ You should NOT analyze your data in any way in the results section -- this comes later in your discussion section. Your results should not imply any bias or interpretation, as this will also be acknowledged later on.
- ★ Put your results in a logical sequence. For example, if your methodology included first sending out a survey and then performing interviews, put the results of the survey before the results of the interviews.
- ★ Make sure you're only including data and information that is actually answering your research question -- it's pointless to include extra information that might take you off track or doesn't pertain to your specific focus.
- ★ Be sure to write data commentary (captions) for any images or figures you used in your results so that readers are aware of what they're looking at.

Quantitative Study:

- ★ In a quantitative study, this section is called "Results." In this section you want to use descriptive statistics such as the mean, mode, median and standard deviation. You also want to include any graphs that enhance the descriptive statistics. DO NOT include any irrelevant graphs or visuals that you do not reference in your results section.
- ★ As stated before, you want to provide short explanations of the data, and do not dive into any depthful analysis of the data.
- ★ You want to maintain a scholarly tone by using words that demonstrate synthesis, interpretation, description, relevance and/or significance.
- ★ You DO NOT want to be repetitive and repeat the same information over and over again.
- ★ In your Results section you also want to include your research's Limitations and Future Directions.

Qualitative Study:

- ★ In a qualitative study, the section where you put your results is usually called "Findings" rather than "Results" (more commonly used for mixed/quantitative data).
- ★ Reporting qualitative data is slightly different from quantitative data in that the data itself usually consists of words which have often been grouped in some way, such as into themes.
- ★ You can still include numbers in your findings section, such as percentages, to show how certain people responded in interviews, but the overarching description of your data should not be numerical -- you don't need to include statistics such as mean, mode, or median, as these lean towards quantitative results. For example, if you were providing results of a survey in a qualitative study, you can still use percentages to say "85% of participants selected that..."