

Congrats on your successful experiment! Now you're ready to write it up. But how? Organizing a scientific research report or proposal can be tricky, especially if you're used to writing for the humanities. It is difficult to know what you should talk about and where you should talk about it.

Scientific reports generally have three main sections: the introduction, the body (methods and results), and the discussion. These sections typically follow an hourglass-shaped organization:

- The introduction is like the upper section of the hourglass. It should begin very broadly, with general ideas, and then become more specific as you near the end.
- The methods and results sections are like the middle of the hourglass. These sections contain information that is very narrow and specific to your experiment.
- The discussion is like the lower section of the hourglass. It should begin very narrowly, with specific ideas directly related to your work, and then become more general as you near the conclusion at the end.

**Instructions:** Look at the following table of topics, themes, ideas, and concepts, and think about where, and in what order, they might fit in an hourglass shaped research report. Write your answers in the template provided on page 2. Note: multiple items may fit in the same places. You can fill your own topics in the blanks.

Statistical procedures	Research applications	"Alcoholism and ADHD in males aged 18-25"	Future research	Definitions
Research approach	Hypotheses		Research implications	"Alcoholism and ADHD"
Theory being tested	Sample characteristics	Alternative interpretations of results	Figures	Results overview
	The general issue	Conclusion	Purpose	Literature review
Compare/contrast with other research	"ADHD"	Interpretation of results		"gap" in the research
Procedures	Descriptions of equipment	Importance of the research	The specific issue	

## Introduction

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## Methods and Results

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## Discussion

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