

Human Factors Experiment Report Writing Guidelines

TITLE

- Representation of the content
- Do not make it too general or too specific
- Key to select a reference
- Relevance to industry, running title, ...

ABSTRACT

- State purposes, method, principal results, significance
- Follow the word limitation of the journal (usually 300 – 500 words)

INTRODUCTION

- Problem statements: Past research finding, drawbacks, gaps, etc
- Necessity: Why is this study necessary? (Several aspects: economical, safety, satisfaction, knowledge finding, etc.)
- Objectives
- Try to describe by gradually narrowing down the scope of the study
- Usually 1-2 pages in length
- Students usually show a poor performance and difficulty in writing it.
- Recommend writing the introduction before the experimental data are collected.

METHOD

Participants:

- Number, relevant demographic information (age, sex, color blind, right handed, experience, education, etc)
- Sample characteristics: Random drawing, university students, voluntary based, etc
- Other things that the readers need to know about the participants
- Do not include irrelevant information
- Students usually omit necessary information.

Apparatus:

- Equipment with brand and model name
- Configuration and layout
- Characteristics necessary for other persons to repeat this experiment.

Experimental Design

- Independent Variables
- Dependent Measures
- Experimental Design: Within subject, Between subjects, Mixed factors

Participant Task

- Explain the tasks the participants performed exactly.

Procedure

- Describe the procedure the participants followed from the beginning to the end of the experiment.
- Usually consists of introduction, pretrial or practice (or training) session, main experimental session, and debriefing.

RESULTS

- Data Reduction
- Statistical techniques used
- Criterion for testing (0.05?), lax criterion?
- Use of figures and tables
- Include only the facts, not the interpretation

DISCUSSION

- Result interpretation
- Comparison with other studies (similarities and differences and why)
- Expected application area

CONCLUSION

- Summary of major findings
- Contributions
- Future research
- Do not repeat the method, results, and discussion
- Provide statements that are supported by the results
- Do not try to generalize and give statements unsupported by data (results)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- If necessary

REFERENCES

- Strictly follow the journal guidelines