Sections of a Scientific Research Report

COVER PAGE

Include the following on your cover page — check with your professor for specific guidelines:

TITLE OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPER
YOUR NAME
DATE
COURSE ID CODE, COURSE NAME, INSTRUCTOR NAME
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY NAME

BODY OF REPORT

1. ABSTRACT

A paragraph that “summarizes the purpose, findings, and conclusions of the experiment.” (Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors, 82)

2. INTRODUCTION

A. Justify the importance of this topic to you and to the course:
   - Provide historical background
   - Argue for significance of the topic
   - Review relevant research and identify gaps/flaws

B. Discuss the main hypothesis:
   - Apply a theoretical framework, if applicable
   - State your question or hypothesis
   - Define your variables

3. BACKGROUND OR LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Summarize the relevant, well documented information on the topic:
   - Review important relevant sources
   - Describe what others did to solve the problem
   - Identify variables
   - Identify the theoretical framework
   - Identify methodological or conceptual gaps and flaws

B. Lead the reader to your hypothesis
4. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

A. Analyze:

- Discuss what you think your findings mean
- Summarize and interpret the results
- Answer your research question

B. Compare:

- Discuss your findings in the context of previous research

C. Comment:

- Discuss implications
- Identify limitations
- Suggest directions for future research

5. YOUR CONCLUSIONS

A. Detail the personal conclusions you have drawn from your critical analysis of the topic. What was:

- enriching
- unique
- special
- significant

B. Do you accept the original hypothesis?

6. APPENDICES

Present documents supporting the content of the report, titled and numbered in sequence:

- maps
- graphics
- charts
- illustrations
- consent forms
- surveys

7. REFERENCES

List the sources of all information referenced in the body of the report:

- start on a separate page
- follow APA format

FOOTER AND PAGE NUMBERS

Place a header or footer on each page with your last name and page number—check with your professor for specific formatting guidelines.