Psychology Papers Outlines

Research Essay

I. Introduction
   A. Topic
   B. Issue
   C. Transitional Sentence
   D. Thesis

II. Major Topic (probably will have more than one; repeat this section for however many major topics you end up having)
   A. First point
   B. Evidence/Support (Can be a quote or data)
   C. Extrapolate Information (What is significant about this information?)
   D. Transitional Sentence

III. Conclusion (Why does this matter? What can the reader or the researcher gather from this?)
   A. Rework of your thesis
   B. Reintroduce main topic and point of first body paragraph
   C. Potential helpful evidence
   D. Reiterate what evidence from the different sources
   E. Reiterate what that means
   F. Closing thoughts

Lab/Experimental Report

I. Title Page (Indicate what the report is about. It should not be written as a question. It should be its own page.)

II. Abstract (A concise summary of the report. Make it brief but do not overuse shorthand. Start with a one or two sentence summary, describe the participants and setting, describe the method [design, treatment, experiment], describe major
findings, with the final sentence being what major contributions this brings to
the field.)

III. Introduction
   A. Begin with general theory
   B. Introduce the topic
   C. Narrow down to specific theory and research
   D. Avoid irrelevant ideas and studies, include relevant critical commentary

IV. Aims (A brief paragraph explaining what you plan to investigate)
   A. What is the significance?
   B. Why are you investigating this?
   C. Cite previous research to back up your claimed expectations
   D. Hypotheses: State the alternate hypothesis and make it clear and concise,
      include variables.

V. Method
   A. Make the process of the study accessible to the reader, assuming there was
      no prior knowledge
   B. Write in the past tense, as the study/lab had already happened
   C. Report only, do not justify actions or include personal opinion
   D. Do not over-explain—there should only be enough detail for someone to
      replicate the experiment

VI. Results
   A. Statistical Information. Report percentages and Degrees of freedom as
      whole numbers
   B. Avoid interpreting the results
   C. Do not include raw data

VII. Discussion
   A. Outline results in plain English with no jargon—relate it to your
      hypothesis
   B. Compare to background materials. Discuss similarities or differences
   C. Discuss ways to improve the study if applicable
VIII. References

Literary Review
I. Abstract
II. Index
III. Introduction
   A. Background information to the field of study (or recent research)
   B. Discuss background and purpose of the text
   C. Present the problem/issue/conflict with the text
   D. Thesis/Stance
IV. Body Paragraph(s)
   A. Mention the paper’s methodology, research, analytical standpoint, tools
   B. Discuss, refute, or deconstruct the paper’s claims
   C. Include research from outside sources
   D. Keep bias limited
V. Conclusion
   A. Discuss the text’s intentions
   B. Closing thoughts
VI. Bibliography

Research Proposal
I. Title Page
II. Abstract (short 150-word paragraph detailing the specifics of your research and the importance/findings)
III. Introduction
   A. Hook
   B. Topic
   C. History of topic (Optional)
   D. Importance of Research
   E. Transitional Sentence
   F. Thesis/Proposal
IV. Problem Statement
   A. Discuss current issue with research
   B. Materials
   C. Methodology
   D. Transitional Sentence

V. Purpose of Study
   A. Discuss thoughts behind research
   B. Discuss potential contributions
   C. Explain the importance of the study
   D. Transitional Sentence

VI. Significance of Research
   A. What contributions will this make?
   B. Where do you go from here?
   C. How may this study further progress in the field?

VII. Results
    A. Closing thoughts on outcomes
    B. Make sure you are clear and keep the language formal but plain