

## Discussion

After you have written down your results, now it is time to discuss them in terms of interpretation and their relation to previous research:

To write a successful discussion, follow the steps below:

**A. Start by reminding your audience of the aim(s) of the research, your overall results, and whether they agree/partially agree/disagree with your hypothesis(es).**

Questions you can ask yourself as you write:

- *What was the significance of the topic? What important literature and gaps led to your aim?*
- *What was the purpose of your study? What did you want to investigate?*
- *Do your results confirm or disprove your hypothesis? How do your results in general answer your research question? Do they partially or fully answer your research question?*

**B. Introduce your first main result, analyze it in terms of significance, and compare it to previous research.**

Questions you can ask yourself as you write:

- *What do the results suggest? What inferences can be drawn from your comparison of your participants' responses? Are your results in some way unexpected? Why are they surprising?*
- *What is the relation of your results to previous research? Do they confirm, extend, or contradict previous research? How so?*

**Note:** In this section, you may want to imagine that you are in a roundtable discussion with all the previous authors who might have something to say as a response to your discussion. You are both explaining and taking their “reactions” into consideration.

**Further Tips:**

- Use hedging when interpreting your results (can, may, probably, etc.)
- Use boosting to emphasize certain points
- Use past tense when summarizing findings
- Use present tense when interpreting results or discussing their significance
- To increase your credibility, do not forget to highlight both the strengths (implications) and the limitations of your research
- End your section with a conclusion where you highlight recommendations for future studies