

Portfolio Component #3: Research Report

ENG 220

WHAT IS A RESEARCH REPORT?

In this assignment, I ask you to write a research report for your research portfolio. The research report is a formalized write-up of your research project, the data you collected, analysis of that data, and conclusions you draw from the data. This paper will complete your research portfolio for the semester.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Your 7-10 page research report draws on a fairly standardized form common to most published research. Your research report should contain the following 5 sections: (1) overview of your project, (2) a literature review, (3) a description of your actual methods, (4) your data with analysis of your data, and (5) conclusions you've drawn from your data. You will also include a References Page and your data instruments and your raw data as appendices.

Overview

Your overview should:

- Introduce your project, including a brief statement of your research questions
- Show why your project is unique and important
- Present your thesis (points to the conclusions you've made from your data and how they help people understand the problem/issue you are investigating)

Literature Review

Your literature review should:

- Cite studies (at least 4) relevant to your topic including background information, similar studies, etc.
- Show how the literature you cite is related to your study
- Synthesize the literature, showing what multiple sources say about a single topic, rather than writing about each source on its own

Methods

Your methods section should:

- Describe the methods you actually used (how you recruited people, collected data, etc.)
- Describe any issues you had with your actual research and how they influenced your data
- Discuss any limitations of your method choice

Data & Data Analysis

Your data and data analysis should:

- Present the data from your study in appropriate forms (quotes, charts, graphs, etc.)
- Explain what data in your graphics is and what it shows in paragraph form
- Discuss how you sorted the data
- Discuss what the patterns are in your data (what does it tell you about your topic and how does it answer your research questions)

Conclusions

Your conclusions should:

- Answer the question: What did you learn from your data?
- Answer the question: Why should your data matter to other people?
- Answer the question: What, if any, recommendations do you have for the people you were researching? For other people with similar issues?

References Page

Your Works Cited Page should:

- Contain all the sources used in your report
- Be correctly formatted in APA style
- Connect accurately to your in-text citations

Appendix

Your Appendix should:

- Contain a copy of your data instrument(s)
- Be correctly formatted in APA or MLA style

PORTFOLIO

This is the third and final component of your Research Portfolio and will discuss and bring together your entire project.