Lab 16: Lab reports II

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Lab report template and marking rubric

Lab class

Please use this template when you write your lab report:

Click here to download the lab report template.

Click here to download the lab report marking rubric.

Before you start writing, study the rubric closely, so you know which criteria we will use to mark your lab report. Also, note that different criteria have different weights. Look at the criteria again while working on the lab report and critically ask yourself to which degree your lab report fulfils the criteria. If you think there is room for improvement, ask yourself what you could do to better meet a given criterion.

Summative lab report experiment

The experiment for the summative lab report will be released on **Friday, 13 March**. You will receive a link to the experiment by email. You must complete the experiment by **Friday, 20 March**. A laptop or desktop computer will be required to run the experiment.

Please make sure to complete the experiment on your own in a quiet environment where you will not be disturbed. It will take about 10 minutes to complete.

It is important that as many students as possible take part in this experiment. With more participants, we will have more power to detect effects, which will make your life easier when you write up your lab report!

We will make the PsychoPy files for this experiment available to you when the summative lab report materials are released.

The formative lab report

Supporting materials for the formative lab report will be available in the "Quizzes and assignments" section on Moodle from **Friday, 13 March at 4pm**. The deadline for submitting the lab report is **Friday, 27 March at 4pm**. The submission link on Moodle will be made available at least one week before the deadline.

Please do not underestimate the amount of work this will involve and start working on the lab report as early as possible! When you do, make sure to read the instructions closely!

Please keep in mind that while this lab report is formatively marked, one of the marking criteria for the **summative** lab report is engagement with the feedback received on the formative lab report. If you fail to submit a formative lab report, the summative mark for this criterion will automatically be 0.

AI use

Guidance on generative AI use for this formative assessment

Because this lab report is formative and does not contribute to your overall module mark, there are technically no academic penalties for using generative AI (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude) to complete it.

However, we strongly advise you to strictly follow the AI guidelines set out for your upcoming summative lab report (included below). This formative assessment is designed to be a practice run. Its primary purpose is to help you develop your independent analytical, research, and writing skills. If you use AI to generate your arguments, structure your report, or write your paragraphs now, you will bypass the learning process and find yourself unprepared for the summative assessment, where unauthorised AI use *will* be penalised under the university's false authorship policy.

Guidance on generative AI use for the summative lab report

As you prepare for your summative lab report, it is crucial to understand how you can appropriately use generative AI tools (like ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude) without compromising your academic integrity or your learning process. The university recognises the value of AI as an aid for orienting yourself in the literature and refining your writing. However, AI must never replace your own critical analysis, reading of primary sources, or independent drafting.

Before you begin your report, please ensure you have read the school's full policy: Essential Guidance for Students on Using Generative AI in Assessments for the School of Psychology

To help you translate that policy into practical steps for this specific assignment, we have outlined some "Do's and Don'ts" below. These guidelines are designed to help you leverage AI as a helpful tool, while ensuring you maintain absolute authorship over your submitted work.

Category	Acceptable Uses (Do's)	Unacceptable Uses & Cautions (Don'ts)
Research & Understanding	Generating database search queries; asking for summaries of broad concepts to orient yourself; checking your understanding of a topic.	Relying on AI as a primary source; trusting AI facts without verification (AI hallucinates and invents facts).
Writing & Drafting	Checking spelling and grammar; suggesting concise phrasing or improving syntax of *existing* text.	Using AI to write paragraphs or substantial parts of the report; using AI to generate the core arguments.
Translation	Translating individual words or short phrases.	Translating entire paragraphs or sections of your work.
Sourcing	Using AI to find key debates or recent developments as a starting point.	Citing AI directly as an academic source; trusting AI-generated references (which are often fabricated).

Here are a couple of "safe prompts" that are designed with specific constraints built into the prompt so that the AI provides critique and guidance rather than doing the work for you.

For grammar, syntax, and conciseness

> **The prompt:** "I am going to provide a paragraph I wrote for my lab report. Please identify any grammatical errors, clunky syntax, or wordy sentences. Give me your feedback as a bulleted list pointing out the specific issues and explaining *why* they need fixing. **Crucial instruction:** Do NOT rewrite the paragraph for me."

For concept checking

> **The prompt:** "I am preparing to write my lab report and want to check my understanding of [insert specific concept/theory]. In my own words, my understanding is: [insert your explanation here]. Am I accurate? Please point out any misconceptions or nuances I have missed. **Crucial instruction:** Do not write a summary for me to use in my report; just tell me where my current reasoning is strong and where it is weak."

Crucial note on authorship: Regardless of how you use AI for writing support (e.g., syntax, grammar), your use must **not** impact your claim to authorship. You must be the creator of the submitted content. AI is not a replacement for reading primary materials.

Mandatory declaration of AI use

Whether you used Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, GrammarlyGo) or not, you must include a mandatory **"Declaration of AI Use"** as an appendix at the very end of your lab

report. If you did not use any AI tools, simply state: *"No AI tools were used in the preparation of this assignment."* If you did use AI tools, you must explicitly detail how they were used.

Please use the following format for your appendix:

Declaration of AI Use

- **AI Tool(s) Used:** [e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini]
- **Purpose of Use:** [e.g., checking syntax, brainstorming search terms]
- **Specific Prompts Used:** [Provide 1-2 examples of the exact prompts you gave the AI.]
- **How the Output was Used:** [Briefly explain how you incorporated the AI's feedback. E.g., "The AI identified that my second paragraph was a run-on sentence, so I manually split it into two clearer sentences."]

Explore, apply, reflect

For this exercise, we have taken the paragraphs from the introduction sections of two published articles and have arranged these in a random order.

Examples

Example 1.

Example 2.

Instructions

Step 1: Functional summaries

Write a one-sentence summary of each paragraph. Your summary should describe the **purpose** of the paragraph in the context of an introduction, rather than the specific topic.

Examples for introduction paragraphs

Content-Specific Summary (Avoid)	Functional/Abstract Summary (Do This)
"The author says many people are using TikTok for news these days."	Establishes the real-world importance or prevalence of the broad topic.
"This paragraph explains that previous studies on TikTok only looked at Gen Z."	Identifies a specific "gap" or "niche" in the existing research.
"The author defines 'algorithmic literacy' as the ability to…"	Clarifies a key theoretical concept or term necessary for the study.
"In this study, we test if age affects how people trust TikTok news."	Explicitly states the current study's research questions or hypotheses.

Step 2: Reconstruct the flow

Attempt to arrange the paragraphs in the correct order.

Solutions

You can find the correct orders and suggested labels for the paragraphs in the file below. We will tell you the password for the file after the exercise.

Solutions.

References