

# Tips for Tables and Graphs Placement

Please...

Don't sandwich a single line of text between two illustrations.

Don't break a table in half with a page break

Don't squeeze an illustration into a single column

Don't center the figure caption

# Figure Captions (continued)

- Please do not begin captions with:
  - “In this table...”
  - “In this graph...”
  - “This graph shows...”
  - “This table shows...”

# How to Write a Results Section

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What is the **Content** of the  
Results Section?

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Report the **results** of your experiments in **past tense**

Report **only meaningful data** (not all of it)

Report data in **figures or text** but not both (although  
all illustrations must be mentioned in the text)

# What is the **Content** of the Results Section?

If it's a long or complicated results section, **consider beginning** with a few sentences **about the experiments** to orient the reader and provide the reader the **scope** of the section

# Use **Subheads** to Break your Results Section into Logical Portions

## Use subheads to:

Provide **advance organization**.

Allow readers to **skip** some sections or **zero in** on others.

**Should subheads in the Results correspond to those in Methods Section?**

# Use **Subheads** to Break your Results Section into Logical Portions

**Should subheads in the Results correspond to those in Methods Section?**

The results section usually benefits from a different organization.  
e.g., **Consider beginning with your most important findings.**

# What **Differentiates** Methods and Results Sections?

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Methods = HOW the data were accumulated

Results = WHAT data were accumulated

# What Differentiates Results and Discussion Sections?

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Results = Data PRESENTATION

Discussion = Data INTERPRETATION

# Do you Have Obey These Rules?

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No

You are authors. Sometimes a paper benefits from having these general rules broken.

e.g., sometimes methods reported in the methods section need to be justified by a result

e.g., sometimes you can reference another paper in the results section if something is particularly striking or odd about your results compared with someone else's.

What are Some **Qualities** of a  
Well-Written Results Section?

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Results that focus on the paper's hypotheses

Results that tell a story rather than report a catalogue of findings

# What are Some Qualities of a Well-Written Results Section?

Methods and results sections that correspond, i.e., results without methods and vice versa

Results are presented in a logical (not chronological) order

Strong opening sentences to each subsection orient the reader to the data that follow.

# What are Some Pitfalls of a Results Section?

Including methods and/or discussion in the results section.

Overlap is acceptable in some circumstances.

Opening with weak or uninformative sentences.

Overstating the results (e.g., Figure 1. clearly shows...”)

Reporting irrelevant results

Although it is sometimes useful to report experiments that didn't work.

Omitting visual organizers (e.g., subheads).

# Zimmerman Example

Authors orient reader in first sentence.

First results is in second sentence.

This and subsequent sentences make declarative statements and refer to data in Figure 1 A - C.

Final statement on this page refers to unpublished data.

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Source: Results section in Zimmermann, K. C., et al. "The role of ARK in stress-induced apoptosis in *Drosophila* cells." J Cell Biol. 2002 Mar 18;156(6):1077-87.

# Zimmerman Example

Last sentence in this paragraph tells what the data indicate.

This is a legitimate result, not discussion.

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Source: Zimmermann, K. C., et al. "The role of ARK in stress-induced apoptosis in *Drosophila* cells." *J Cell Biol.* 2002 Mar 18; 156(6):1077-87.

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Note orienting sentence at outset of subsection.

Note all the references to figures.  
This is typical of a results section.

Note transition of ideas in topic sentence of paragraph two, "To further extend our observations..."

Last sentence borders on discussion. Authors prerogative.

# Zimmerman Example

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Source: Zimmermann, K. C., et al. "The role of ARK in stress-induced apoptosis in *Drosophila* cells." J Cell Biol. 2002 Mar 18; 156(6):1077-87.

Subheads are statements.

Orienting sentences are followed by declarative statements referring to figures.

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Don't rely on  
subheads to inform  
topic sentences.

Bad form.

# Zimmerman Example

Authors state what their results  
“suggest” ...translate - “indicate.”

Try to reserve “suggest” for the  
discussion.

Authors say that other researchers  
“claim” something about Reaper.

This means they don't agree.

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Source: Zimmermann, K. C., et al. “The role of ARK in stress-induced apoptosis in *Drosophila* cells.” J Cell Biol. 2002 Mar 18; 156(6):1077-87.

# How to Decide What to Report?

Make your figures first  
to see how convincing  
your data are.

Your figures are the  
**heart** of your Results  
section.

# Then Make a List of the Points You Want to Make

You're forced to do this in a PowerPoint presentation

- e.g., **one slide per point** (even if the point is, “this didn't work and I don't know why.”).

You aren't forced to do this on paper, hence some results sections **ramble.....**

# Do it Now

Make a list of the points you want to make so far.

These are likely to become subheadings in your results section.

(Some will be folded in to the same subsection though.)

# Check Your List Again After the Results are Written...

Did you make your points?

Do the topic sentences focus on the points you  
want to make?

Do the data back them up?