What We Will Cover in This Section

• What a research report is.
• Anatomy of a research report.
• Kinds of research reports.
• Sources.

What is a Research Report?

A formal document that presents the results of some empirical study.
– Usually peer reviewed.
– Usually published.
– Usually presents original research.
– Has a highly structured format.
Research Paper Format

Abstract

- Summarizes the research report in 100-150 words.
- Lets the reader decide if the study is of interest.
- Generally summarizes
  - Introduction
  - Method
  - Results
  - Discussion.
- May over simplify.

Introduction

- Describes the specific problem being studied.
- Summarizes previous research.
- Describes the basic research strategy.
- Describes the research hypothesis.
**Method**

- Describes in detail how the study was conducted.
  - Participants.
  - Apparatus.
  - Manipulations.
  - Measurement tools.
  - Procedure.
- Should be so detailed that the reader could replicate the study.

**Results**

- Describes the data collected, any statistical analyses, and the conclusions drawn from the statistical analyses.
- The most difficult section to understand.

**Discussion**

- Summarizes the results, presents the implications of the data and may include a critique of the study.
  - Includes alternative interpretations of the data.
  - Describes the limitations of the study.
  - May suggest further research.
Reference Section

- Lists all research that was reviewed for this study in APA format.
- If a study is referenced, it appears here.

Table

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for total aggression scores by category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Categories</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agg. Classical</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>14.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agg. Popular</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51.29</td>
<td>17.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calm Classical</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.27</td>
<td>7.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calm Popular</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29.73</td>
<td>9.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures #1

Frequency Polygon

- Assertiveness Raw Score
- Frequency

- Gender
  - Male
  - Female
Primary Research

- This report summarizes the research done by the authors.
  - Typically summarizes a single research project.
  - Usually the only report; it is unethical to report the same study in several publications.
  - Successful replications are rarely published.
**Literature Review**

- This report summarizes all of the research done on a particular topic.
  - Typically focus on a specific area.
  - Review what is known and what is not known in the area.
  - Very good source of information on a specific topic area.

---

**Theoretical Paper**

- This is a publication that develops a theoretical explanation for a some particular area.
  - Typically the authors support their theory with data from primary research.
  - Typically authors describe why their theory is better than other theories.

---

**Meta Analysis**

- A research report that summarizes a number of research results by combining the statistical findings from many studies.
  - Provides a general assessment of the relationship between similar variables.
  - The focus is on statistical data, not conceptual information.
Assignment

See Library Scavenger Hunt.

The End