Introduction

Presents the scientific background, the rationale, and the hypothesis

Opening paragraph(s): Introduce the research problem/question
- Start with an accessible general opening sentence(s)
- Introduce the general area of research
- Identify the scope of previous research

A concise literature review
- Summarise current knowledge; emphasise relevant findings, methodological issues, and major conclusions
- Present a range of evidence (make sure where possible that you include contemporary research)
- Try and critically evaluate the research that you cite

The present study / Rationale: Introduce the project
- Provide a brief overview of your own study
- State the rationale: use previous research and theory to make a critical argument for your Aims or hypothesis
- Provides a smooth transition to the Method section

Method

Describe in detail what you did to gather your data, following the structure and sub-headings below

Quantitative reports
Participants ● Describe who took part in your research
Materials ● Describe what you used to gather data within your study, whether that be survey/questionnaires of software.
Procedure ● Describe in detail what participants did in your study
Ethical Considerations ● Detail what ethical consideration you took into account as part of your study (e.g., confidentiality, anonymity). If the study has been sanctioned by an ethics body, then give details of this here.
Data Preparation ● Describe what you did to the data set that you have gathered before you undertook your statistical analysis

Results

Describes the findings of the data analysis

1. Restate hypothesis in conceptual terms

2. Reword hypothesis in operational terms

3. State the finding plainly

4. Summarise what was found

It was hypothesised that 1st year students would have higher levels of anxiety than 2nd year students. Specifically, 1st year students were expected to have higher scores on the GAD-7 questionnaire than 2nd year students. As shown in Table x, 1st students had significantly higher GAD-7 scores than 2nd year students, on average, t (102) = 10.23, p = .011. The Experimental hypothesis was supported.

- Supplement the text with tables and figures, as appropriate
- Do describe the findings, but don't interpret them

Discussion

Interpret the results

Opening paragraph: Address the research problem/question
- General statement of the findings in conceptual terms
- State whether the hypothesis was supported or not
- Remember don't include statistical information here, or anywhere within your discussion section.

Account for the findings
- Compare your findings to the findings of the evidence that you have cited in the *Introduction*
- Explain what your findings mean: How do they fit with existing theoretical ideas? What new knowledge has been gained?
- Offer tentative explanations for any unexpected findings or findings that contradict those of previous research.

Limitations: Evaluate your study
- What aspects of your study could have impacted on your results – especially if your results run contrary to previous research.
- If you were to improve your study, what would you change – choose one or two aspects that might have a large impact on your research, try and avoid lots of minor points.
- Try and be specific in your changes, try to avoid general comments such as – use a larger sample – unless this is especially relevant to your study.
- Get a good balance here – your study won't have been perfect (no-one's is), but equally don't end up trashing your study.

Future directions
- If you were to run a follow-up study what would you do

Conclusions
- State the potential implications for research, theory, and/or practice
- Link back to the research question or problem

References

This is where you include the full reference for any of the in text citations to previous research that you have made. Make sure you are using the correct format (e.g., APA, Vancouver). The format you are using will dictate whether you are listing these in alphabetical order or in the order they appear within your main text.