Writing about results

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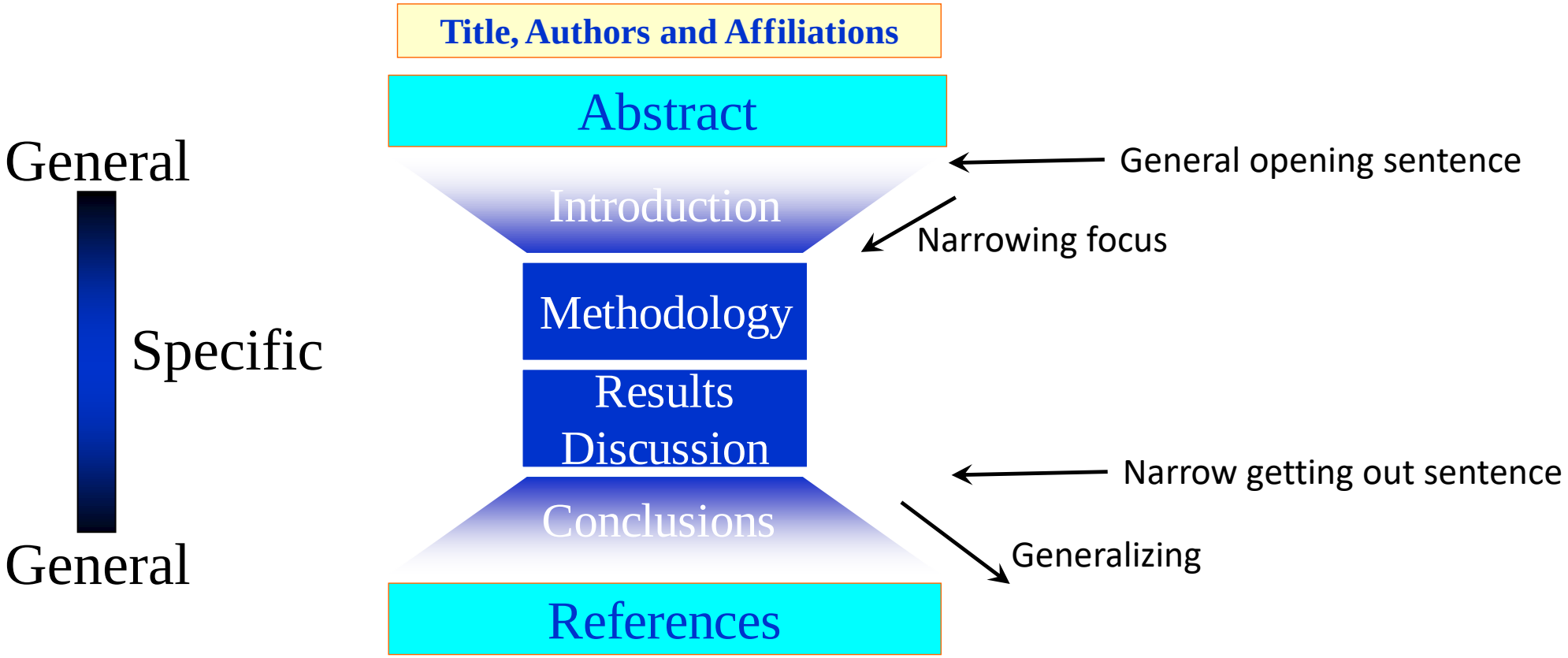
The general shape of a research paper or thesis



Different Structures

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Results *or* Data Analysis	Results *or* Data Analysis	Results and Discussion	Results *or* Data Analysis
Discussion	Discussion	Ø	Discussion and Conclusion(s)
Conclusion(s)	Ø	Conclusion(s)	Ø

Components of the Results Section

1. Revisiting the research aim/existing research; Revisiting/expanding methodology; General overview of results.

2. Invitation to view results; Specific/key results in detail, with or without Explanations; Comparisons with results in other research; Comparison/s with model predictions

3. Problems with results

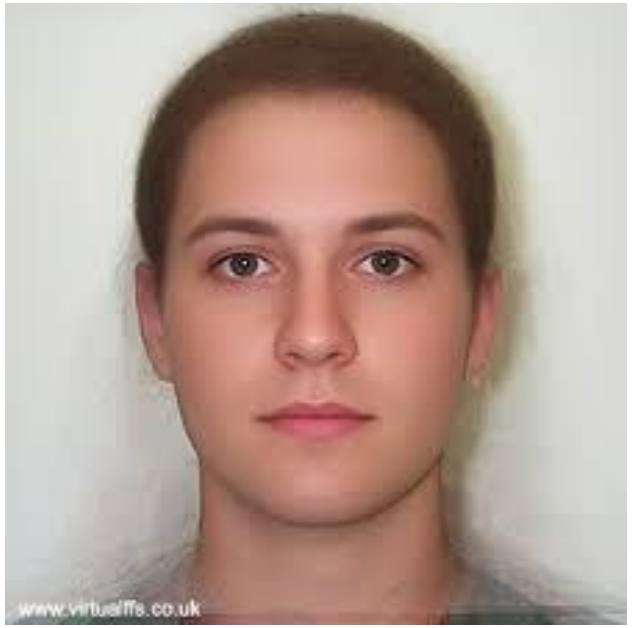
4. Possible implications of results

Why do we need to explain tables, graphs or charts?

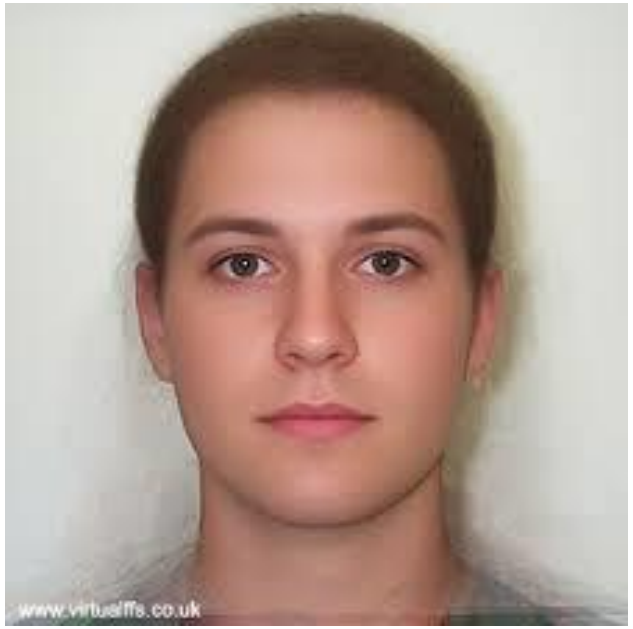
Why do we need to explain tables, graphs or charts?

- Interesting or significant results. It is difficult to communicate this in a table or graph.
- It is essential to relate your results to the aim(s) of the research.
- You may want to offer background information to explain why a particular result occurred.
- Extreme cases or exceptions; Your results may be problematic; and you want to suggest possible reasons for this.
- You must communicate your own understanding and interpretation of the results to your readers.

The power of the words!

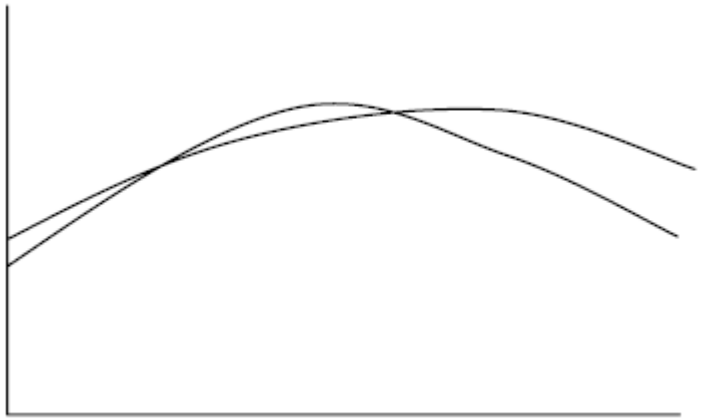


Come and meet my neighbor, he spent 10 years in prison for murder.

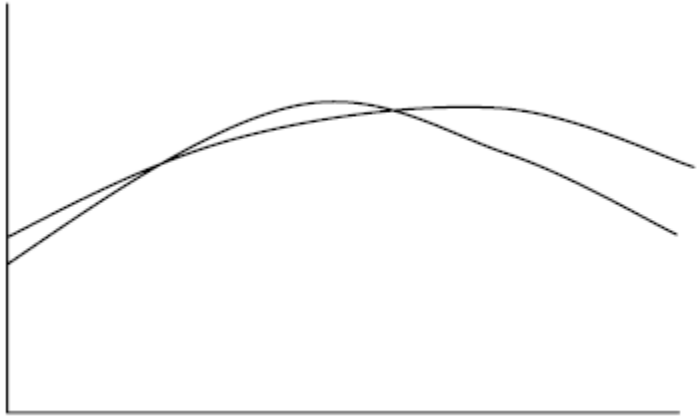


Come and meet my neighbor, he gives a lot of money to poor people.

The power of the words!



As can be seen in the figure, the two curves are very similar.



As can be seen in the figure, the two curves are noticeably different.

Results do not speak for themselves!

As can be seen in Figure 1, the effect occurred in 23% of cases.

- You may have thought that was a high percentage.
- The reader may decide that 23% of cases is low.

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Revised alternatives:

- **As can be seen in Figure 1, the effect occurred in as many as 23% of cases.**
- **As can be seen in Figure 1, the effect occurred in over 23% of cases.**

Writing Skills for Results Section

- **Sequence**
- **Frequency**
- **Quantity**
- **Causality**

Sequence

- Time sequence means how long each step took and where it occurred in the sequence. 8 categories:

Beforehand, in advance	**later, towards the end**
At the beginning, initially	**when, at the same time, just then**
Then, next, after,	**at the end**
Soon, shortly after	**afterwards**

Frequency

- how often a particular event or result occurred. 11 categories:

1. always	7. sometimes
2. generally, normally	8. occasionally, now and then
3. regularly, repeatedly	9. rarely, seldom, Infrequently
4. Frequently, often	10. hardly ever, barely ever, almost never, scarcely ever
5. more often than not	
6. as often as not (neutral)	11. never

Writing Skills for Results Section

- **Sequence**
- **Frequency**
- **Quantity**
- **Causality**

Quantity

1. **Increment (considerable)**
2. **Decrement (as few as)**
3. **Emphasizing (very)**
4. **Similarity (almost)**
5. **No commitment (some)**

Quantity: increase the size/quantity

- a great deal (of)
- a number (of)
- as many as (45)
- appreciable
- at least
- considerable
- greater (than)
- marked
- more (than)
- most
- numerous
- over (half/25%)
- plenty
- much
- substantial
- significant
- upwards of

Quantity: Reduce the size/quantity

- a few
- a little
- as few as 23%
- barely
- below
- few
- fewer (than) 25%
- hardly
- little
- less
- marginal
- negligible
- only
- slight
- small
- under

Quantity: emphasize how big/small/high/low the size/quantity is

- appreciably
- by far
- considerably
- easily (over/under)
- even (higher/lower)
- exceptionally (high/low)
- extremely (high/low)
- far (above/below)
- particularly
- so (high/low)
- substantially
- well (under/over)

Quantity: similar/close to another

- approximately
- close (to)
- few
- little (*i.e.* close to none)
- nearly
- practically
- few (*i.e.* close to none)
- just (over/under)
- slightly
- virtually

Quantity: a reluctance to commit oneself to an interpretation of the size/quantity

- fairly
- in some cases
- moderate
- quite
- rather
- reasonably
- relatively
- some
- somewhat
- to some extent

Writing Skills for Results Section

- **Sequence**
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- **Quantity**
- **Causality**

Causality

- indicate the relationships or connections between the events that you observed (cause/effect), examples:
  - x produced y, the subject, x, is the cause of the object, y, which is the effect,
  - x originated in y, x is the effect and y is the cause,
  - x is linked to y, x could be either the cause or the effect,

Causality: Question 1

- What is the difference between the following two phrases?
    1. x results from y
    2. x results in y

Causality: Question 2

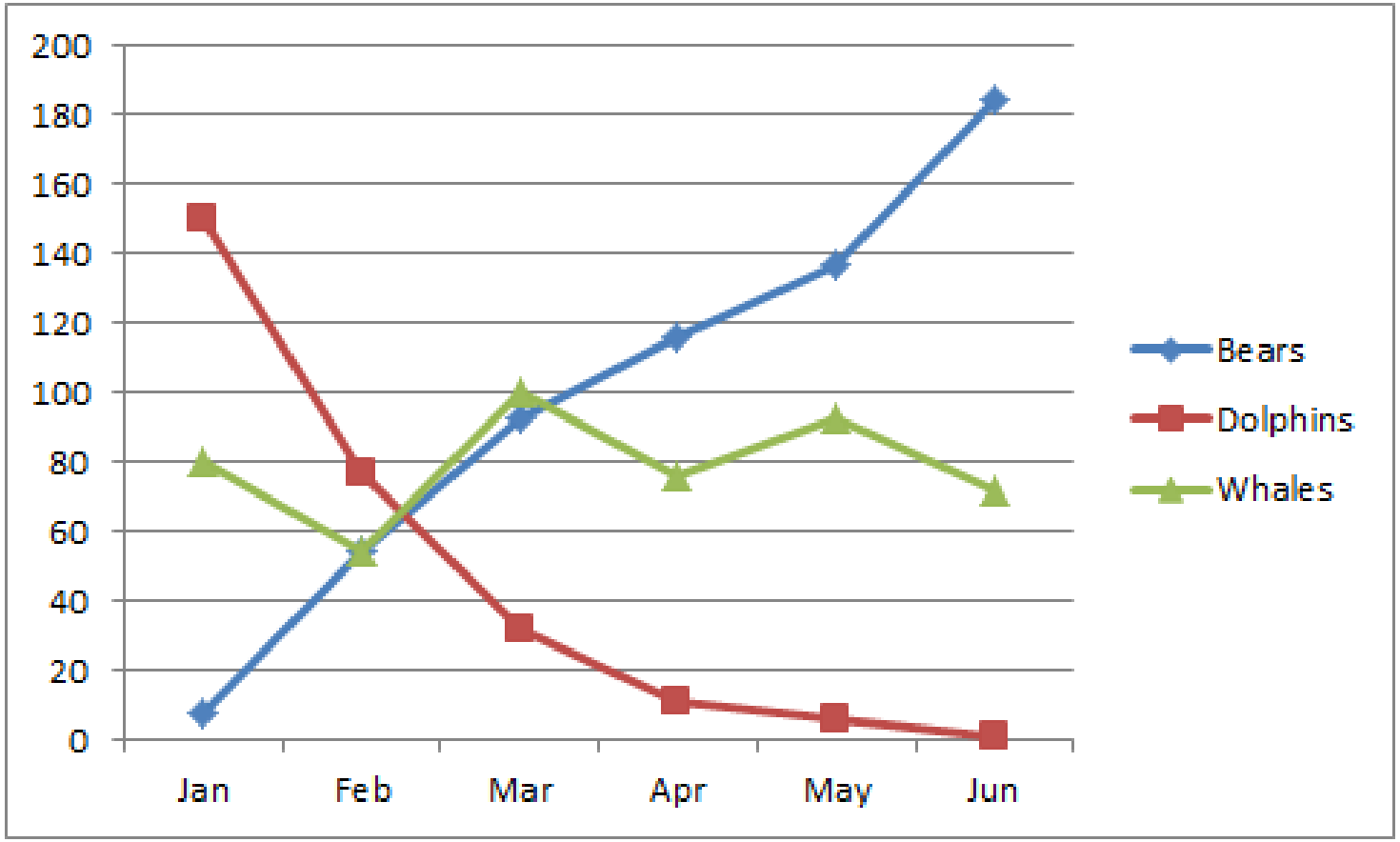
- What is the difference between the following two phrases?
    1. x is a cause of y
    2. x is the cause of y

Causality: 4 types

1. A clear/strong causal connection (*cause, produce, be due to*),
2. A partial cause (*be a factor in, contribute to*),
3. The initial or first cause in a causal chain (*originate in, initiate*),
4. A weak causal connection (*be related to, link*).

Please refer to the Unit 3 (our main textbook) for more vocabulary and examples.

Exercise in class: Explain the results in one paragraph and Email me for the next week.



Average number of animals seen in the beach from January to June