**1OO2PSY** Individual and Social Psychology

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**APA REPORT TEMPLATE**

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF VIOLENT MEDIA CONSUMPTION

* This template is intended to give you a clear example of a correctly formatted APA research report, with all components included
  + Your finished research report should “look” very similar to this template if it is in correct APA style
  + If your research report doesn’t “look” like this template, you will be penalised for deviation from APA style
* This template describes what needs to be included in each section
  + This information is also available on the assignment information document
* This template also includes a proposed paragraph structure for the assignment
  + The structure suggested is only a guide
  + If you feel that an alternative structure would flow better, go for it – just make sure all the information requested on the assignment information document is included
* You will benefit from creating your own template document
  + The template is for reference and cross-checking
  + You should learn how to use the functions in *Microsoft Word* (or whatever word processor you are using) to produce a correctly formatted APA style research report from scratch – this will be very beneficial for you, moving forward in your degree
  + Cross-check the formatting of your research report with this document to see if your report matches the standard we are looking for
  + You could even create a personal APA research report template document from scratch to use for future assignments!

A title describing exactly what you are investigating that includes all variables

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Word Count: 1, 500

Abstract

The abstract is a single paragraph that summarises the key points of the manuscript in up to 120 words. You need to briefly introduce the topic, define the research questions (e.g., variables and relationships investigated), outline the methodology, and describe the key findings (i.e., relationships between the variables you’ve chosen and violent media consumption). At the end of the abstract, explicitly state that the implications of these findings will be discussed. Usually, you only have enough words for only one-two sentences on each of these. Although this is the first thing the reader sees after the title page, it is typically written last.

Repeat the title here

In the first paragraph, introduce your topic and set the context for your study. Describe what violent media consumption is and let the reader know what you are investigating in relation to it and why (i.e. your rationale). An example of how you can build your rationale: Why it is important to explore the relationship between the variables you’ve chosen and violent media consumption? State the aims of the research and introduce all the variables you are going to look at in the research report (just the names will do here).

In the second paragraph, define and describe the first variable you have chosen (reference your definition/description). Explain *how* you think this variable relates to violent media consumption. Draw on the literature to help you explain this relationship (e.g. merely stating that violent media consumption is associated with aggression isn’t enough; how does the literature propose these variables are related [mechanisms], and what is the direction of the relationship [positive or negative]?) Provide evidence of past research in the literature (the more the better) which has actually shown a relationship between the variable you have chosen and violent media consumption (reference this appropriately). If no previous research exists on this relationship (unlikely), you need to be creative and find research that *suggests* that the variable you have chosen and violent media consumption may be related – you can look for research exploring theoretically similar variables or cite more general theories that speak to the mechanisms you propose.

In the third paragraph, follow the exact same structure as you did in your second paragraph, now discussing the second variable you have chosen.

In the fourth paragraph, restate the aim of your research, again explaining that you’re testing the relationship between violent media consumption and your two variables. Briefly indicate the methodology you’ll be using to test the hypotheses (i.e., online survey/questionnaire). Finally, state your hypothesis/predictions regarding each relationship (i.e., What type of relationship are you expecting to find – positive vs. negative?).  
Example: “I hypothesise that Variable 1 will be positively correlated with violent media consumption”. Hypotheses should flow logically from your literature review in the previous paragraphs.

**Method**

**Participants**

Describe your participants. Include details such as number of participants, demographic details (age [include mean & standard deviation], gender [include frequency of each gender]), and the recruitment procedures (say they were a community sample recruited by students in the course). Use the templates given in the workshop slides for how to write this up.

**Procedure**

Describe how the study was carried out. Say that the measures were compiled into an online survey and disseminated to participants. Describe how the survey was distributed. State how long participation approximately took.

**Measures**

**Variable 1 name.** Describe the scale used to measure the first variable – number of items used to measure the variable, and a description of what the scale measures. If the scale was adapted from another source, say so and reference the source. If a single item was used to measure the variable, report the item, including the scale anchors (i.e. lowest and highest possible responses). If a multiple item scale was used to measure the variable, report one sample question from the scale, include the scale anchors, and describe how total scores for the scale were calculated (e.g. items were summed/averaged) and interpreted (e.g. such that higher score indicated higher Variable 1). Use the templates given in the workshop slides for how to write this up.

**Variable 2 name.** Do the same for the second variable you have chosen.

**Violent media consumption.** Do the same for violent media consumption.

**Results**

Summarise the statistical analyses that you ran on the data collected. First, say that your means and standard deviations for each variable, and the correlations between each variable and violent media consumption can be found in the table that you will input below. Be explicit when directing readers to the table; perhaps use something like “refer to Table 1”. Within the table, make sure you input the correct statistics to the correct number of decimal places. All the relevant statistics can be found in the *1002PSY Survey Measures & Results* document. Asterisks should be assigned to correlation coefficients consistent with the *p* value legend beneath the table. You then want to explain in words what each of your correlation coefficients mean. Write them up as per the example templates you were given in workshops. Remember to report the exact *r* (optional) and *p* value in parentheses after each correlation you describe. Since the *r* value is in the table, it doesn’t need to be reported again in text. For example: A significant positive/negative correlation emerged between Variable 1 and violent media consumption, such that higher/lower Variable 1 was associated with greater/less violent media consumption (*p* = .XXX). You would repeat this with Variable 2.

Table 1

*Descriptive statistics and correlation with violent media consumption for variable 1 and variable 2*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | *M* (*SD*) | Violent Media Consumption |
| Variable 1 | X.XX (X.XX) | .XX |
| Variable 2 | X.XX (X.XX) | .XX\*\* |
| Violent Media Consumption | X.XX (X.XX) |  |

\**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01, \*\*\**p* < .001

**Discussion**

In the first paragraph, restate your topic, aim, and the variables you investigated. It does not matter if this first paragraph only has 2 – 3 sentences.

In the second paragraph, describe the findings for your first variable and state whether they supported the hypothesis you proposed in the introduction for that relationship (e.g., In line with the hypothesis…, Contrary to the hypothesis…). Then, relate your findings back to the evidence you referenced from the previous research (i.e., the evidence that informed your hypothesis about this variable). If your results are consistent with the previous research,  
re-explain how this variable relates to violent media consumption, saying that your finding in this study provides further support for this. If not, discuss *why* you may not have found the relationship you hypothesised. Take this as an opportunity to apply your critical thinking skills.

In the third paragraph, follow the exact same structure as you did in your second paragraph, now discussing the second variable you have chosen.

In the fourth paragraph, discuss the real-world implications that your findings may have. You might want to consider the following questions: Do your results paint violent media in a positive light or negative light? What do your results suggest about the nature of people who consume violent media a lot?

In the fifth paragraph, identify and discuss a key limitation of the study, clearly explaining *why* it is a limitation. Think about limitations concerning the methods and measures we used. Make at least one suggestion for future research that can directly resolve the limitation you have identified. Explain how this suggestion can overcome the limitation, in detail. Finally, think up a punchy conclusion to your research report.

References

Surname, F. M., & Hurd, A. (2016). Title of journal article. *Journal of Article, volume number,* page start-page end.

Surname, F. M., & Hurd, A. (2016). *Title of Book*. Publication City: Publisher.

Surname, F. M., & Hurd, A. (2016). Title of Book Chapter. In X. Y. Editor, & Z. Editor (Eds.), *Title of Book* (pp. 001-020). Publication City: Publisher.