

Rubric Research report¹ version 2012-03-16

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Level 2 – Must have</i>	<i>Level 3 – Nice to have</i>
1. Manuscript structure ²	<p>All elements are connected and organized.</p> <p>Research questions, hypotheses, research design, results, inferences, and evaluations are related.</p>	<p>All elements are logically connected and keypoints within sections are organized.</p> <p>Research questions, hypotheses, research design, results, inferences, and evaluations are related and form a consistent and concise argumentation.</p>
2. Introduction (APA manual 2.05)	<p>The scientific/societal problem the study addresses is introduced, and it is made clear why this deserves new research.</p> <p>A summary of literature pertinent to the problem is provided.</p> <p>The research question is connected to (or the hypothesis is derived from) the problem description and the literature review.</p>	<p>The scientific/societal problem the study addresses is introduced, it is made clear why this deserves new research and that it makes an important contribution to the field.</p> <p>A complete summary of the literature pertinent to the problem is provided.</p> <p>The research question is logically connected to (or the hypothesis is derived from) the problem description and the literature review, and gives a precise and accurate description of what the researcher wants to find out.</p>
3. Methods ³ (APA manual 2.06)	<p>The variables are operationally defined, information is provided about the sample and the sampling procedures, about the methods for data gathering, and about the design of the study.</p>	<p>The information provided permits experienced investigators to replicate the study: The variables are conceptually and operationally defined, information is provided about the sample and the sampling procedures, about the methods for data gathering and their reliability and validity, and about the design of the study.</p>

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² For information concerning Manuscript structure, see APA manual 6th edition, section 2.05 (where the relation between hypotheses and research design is emphasized), section 2.07 (where relation between results, analyses, and the discourse that is to follow is emphasized), and section 2.08 (where the relation between hypotheses, results, theoretical and practical consequences is addressed)

³ For a research plan, a specific paragraph concerning the *analyses* is required

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4. Results ⁴ (APA manual 2.07)	Information is provided about the collected data, the analyses and their results. This information enables the reader to evaluate the discussion that is to follow.	The information that is provided about the collected data, the analyses and their results is accurate and complete (e.g., missing data, significance, effect sizes) . This information enables the reader to evaluate the discussion that is to follow. If interventions or experimental manipulations were used, evidence is provided on whether they were delivered as intended and all important adverse events and/or side effects are detailed.
5. Discussion ⁵ (APA manual 2.08)	The results are used to answer the research question and are interpreted in relation to the work of others. Based on the interpretation, the implications and importance of the findings are discussed.	The results are used to answer the research question or underpin a statement of (non)support of hypotheses . The results are interpreted in relation to the work of others and are taking the limitations or weaknesses of the study into account . Based on the interpretation, the implications and importance of the findings are discussed and related to the scientific/societal problem the study addresses . Unresolved or newly arisen problems are described .
6. Organization and writing style (APA manual ch3)	The manuscript has an organized structure. Language is precise. Cited references in text and in a reference list are all according to the APA manual 6th edition.	The manuscript has a sound organized structure with concise headings and paragraphs, continuity in words, concepts, and thematic development . Language is precise and scientific (see 3.07 APA manual). Transitional words maintain the flow of thought (see 3.05 APA manual). Cited references in text and in a reference list, tables and figures are all according to the APA manual 6th edition.

⁴ For a research plan, a Results section is not applicable

⁵ For a research plan, a Discussion section is not applicable