

Results

Results describe “just the facts.”

Discussion gives your interpretation of what the facts mean.

Figures: independent variable on x-axis,
dependent variable on y-axis.

Tables: independent variable(s) on the left side,
dependent variable(s) in columns to the right.
Often have an entry column to make it easier to
reference data in the table, e.g., Trial 1, 2, 3, etc.
See Exercise 4.16, p.139.

Text: highlight the meaning or meanings that are in the graphic, but avoid simply repeating information that is easily discerned from the graphic. Tell the story of the graphic without being boring with unnecessary repetition.

Do not present results chronologically.

Do not present all results found (vs. lab report discussions).

Use 20:20 hindsight to present the results in the shortest, most logical way.

Discussion

Results tell the story of the data – what took place.

- The car moved ten feet forward.
- Clay-rich soils treated with RAMEB showed lower adsorption than original soils. (p.126)

Discussion explains the story – why it took it place, how it took place.

- The driver pressed the gas pedal, the tow truck pulled it forward, the car behind crashed into it and pushed it forward ...
- This potentially indicates RAMEB decreases the amount of water-available surfaces in clay-rich soils, similar to what was observed for pure clay minerals (20). (p.126)

Discussion gives your interpretation of what the facts mean.

Move structure of Discussion section

Fig. 5.1, p. 166

1. Discuss specific results:
Remind and interpret. (cite literature)
2. Conclude with the big picture:
Summarize your work and provide the take-home message(s) and broad implications.

Move 1. Specific

Move 2. General

(IMRD hourglass, p. 165, p. 46)

Practice identifying the moves and sub-moves in
a Discussion section with Exercise 5.3, p. 168