

# Writing the Results

Writing the Results will include both text and illustrative materials AKA the tables and graphs. Use the text to explain and guide the reader through your key results, i.e., the information that answers the hypothesis you investigated. Use the tables and graphs to help strengthen and explain what you are stating in your text.

## Your results should follow these guidelines:

1. Include what you wanted to accomplish and prove during your experiment.
2. Describe and report what you discovered. Be sure to include any data that might have been collected. It is important to show this data even if it did not support your hypothesis. The process of completing the experiment with true data is what is important.
3. The function of the Results section is to objectively present your key results, without interpretation.

## Example of how to write the results:

The original purpose of this experiment was to see how a seeds germination is effected by the time of exposure to running water. The results of the experiment were that the duration of exposure to running water had a great effect on overall seed germination. (See chart #1). The seeds exposed to the 48-hour treatment had the highest percentage rate of germination (See chart #2). This was 2 times that of the 12-h group and 5 times that of our control group that was not exposed to the running water treatment.

## Fill in the blanks below to create a quality Results page.

The original purpose of this experiment was to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The results of the experiment were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Pointers for your Tables / Graphs:

- ❖ **Big or little?** A good rule of thumb is to size your figures to fill about one page. The viewer should not have to get a magnifying glass to make out the details.
- ❖ **Color or no color?** Most often black and white is preferred. The idea is that if you need to photocopy or fax your paper, any information conveyed by colors will be lost to the reader. However, for a poster presentation or a talk with projected images, color can be helpful in distinguishing different data sets. Every aspect of your Figure should convey information; *never use color simply because it is pretty.*
- ❖ **Title or no title?** When you are making a *posters or projected images*, where people may have a harder time reading the small print of a legend, a larger font title is very helpful.