



Thesis writing

# Results



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

## PURPOSE

The results section of a thesis presents readers the findings of the research project. These are very often summarised in tables and/or graphs, but those also need to be described and explained in prose, so that readers are sure to recognise and correctly interpret numerical information. Each discipline has its own conventions in presenting the results of specific methods of data creation and analysis.

In general, the presentation of results should be organised to reflect:

- the aims of the research or the research question/s outlined in the Introduction
- the procedures and the same sequence of information as presented in the Methods chapter.

The results should build on what readers have already come to understand about your research from reading earlier sections of the thesis. Most importantly, the Results section should only present the findings and should not include interpretations of the results. Interpretation belongs in the Discussion section.

## RESULTS SECTIONS IN COMBINED “RESULTS & DISCUSSION” CHAPTERS

In some disciplines, the Results section can be combined with the Discussion in a single chapter. In such combined sections, though, there is still a clear separation within the chapter of sections that present the results and sections that discuss those results.

