



Writing a Literature Review: How to Get Started

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Agenda

- I. Introduction to IV/DVs
- II. Review Research Summary Template
- III. Review Research Paper Outline
- IV. Writing your Literature Review
- v. Helpful Resources
 - I. Integrated Article Review Worksheet (PEGS, 2019)
 - II. Appendices

Literature Review

What is a literature review?

- ← The main purpose of a literature review is to gain an understanding of the existing research or debates related to a topic of an area of study
- ← A literature review should provide your reader with insight on the writings that helped you with your research
- ← This section should be informative and demonstrate your understanding of your topic

A good literature review does not just summarize sources □ it analyzes, synthesizes, and critically evaluates to give a clear picture of your knowledge on the subject



Literature Review

Key Steps

1. Search for relevant literature
2. Evaluate sources
3. Identify themes, debates, and gaps
4. Outline the structure
5. Write your literature review

Independent Variables

- ▶ IV: Variable that is manipulated in order to identify the effect observed in the DV.
 - ▶ Quasi/Experimental & Controlled (control variable)

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Dependent Variables

- ▶ DV: Variable that is used to observe/record/measure whether an effect has occurred or not.
- ▶ Researcher seeks to control both variables with the use of operational definitions, manipulation, and the design of the study (ex: 2 x 3 factorial design)

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Examples of IV's & DV's

- ▶ You want to study whether caffeine-intake affects your appetite.
- ▶ A scientist studies how many days people can eat soup until they get sick.
- ▶ Does anxiety impact student's working memory?

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Reference Summary Chart

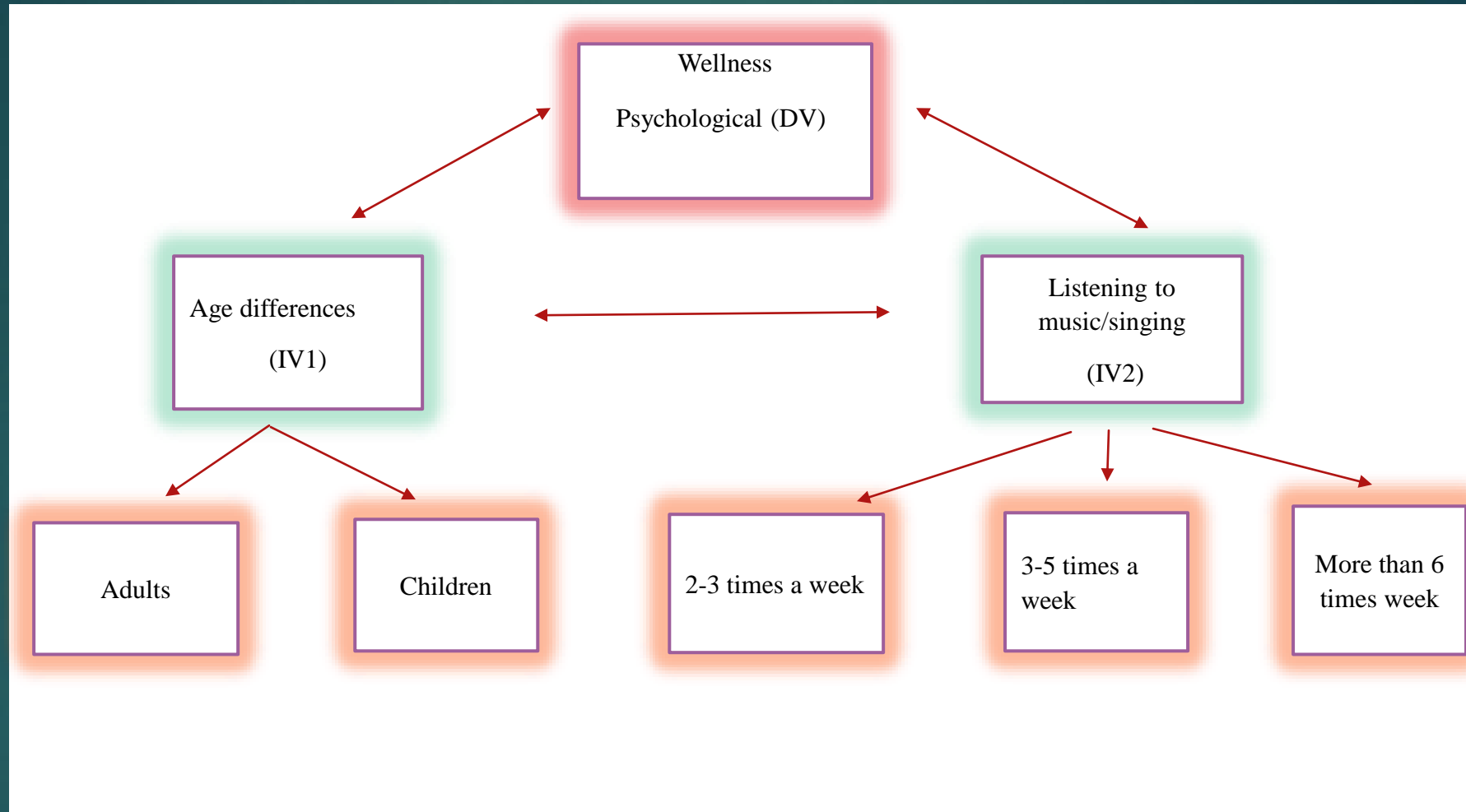
Preparing For Your Literature Review

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS & HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

Operational Definitions of Variables

- ▶ Set of procedures used to measure and manipulate it
 - ▶ Examples: happiness, cognitive task of performance, self-esteem
 - ▶ Variables need to be operationalized to be studied empirically.

Operational Definitions: Flowchart



Hypothesis

- ▶ **Nature of Hypothesis** The hypothesis is a clear statement of what is intended to be investigated.
- ▶ It should be specified before research is conducted and openly stated in reporting the results.
- ▶ Identify the research objectives.
- ▶ Identify the key abstract concepts involved in the research
- ▶ Identify its relationship to both the problem statement and the literature review
- ▶ A problem cannot be scientifically solved unless it is reduced to hypothesis form

Hypotheses

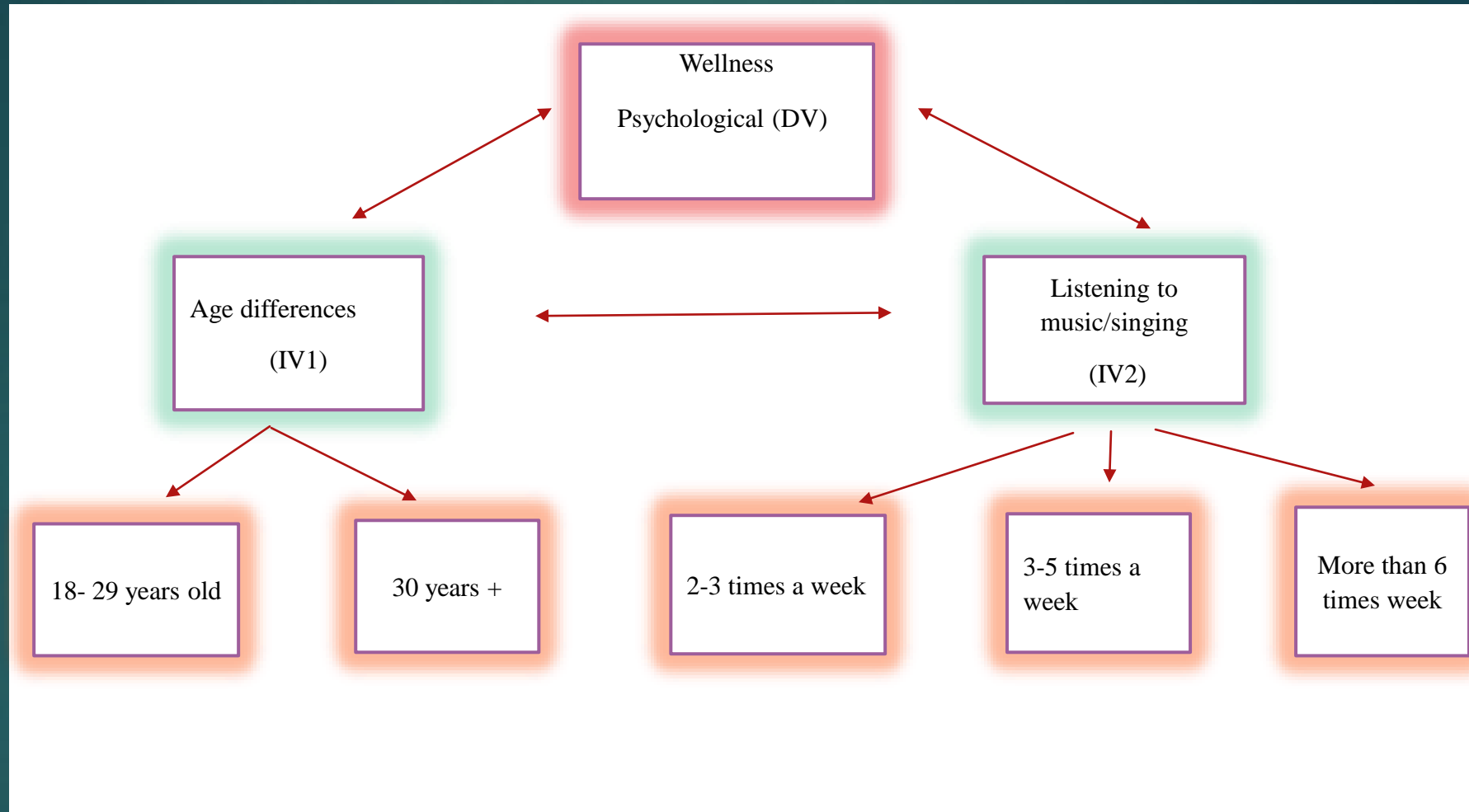
NULL HYPOTHESES

- ▶ Designated by: H_0
- ▶ The **null hypothesis states equality, there are no differences.**

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

- ▶ Designated by: H_1
- ▶ The **research hypothesis** is a statement of what a hypothesis test is set up to establish; **states the inequality**
- ▶ Opposite of Null Hypothesis.
- ▶ Only shown if H_0 is rejected.
- ▶ **Scientist goal of research.**

Operational Definitions: Flowchart



Example

Consider the example of a simple association between two variables, Y and X.

- ▶ IV1- Adults who are **30 years and older** are more likely to report **overall wellness** than adults who are **18 to 29 years old**.
- ▶ IV2- Participants who **listen or sing music more than 6 times a week** are more likely to report **overall wellness** than participants who **listen or sing music 2-3 times or 3-5 times a week**.

Interaction Hypotheses

- ▶ IV3- **Older adults (30-years-old or older)** who **listen or sing music more than 6 times a week** are more likely to report **overall wellness** than **older adults (30-years-old or older)** who **listen or sing music 2-3 times or 3-5 times a week**.

Summary of a Good Hypothesis:

- ▶ Be stated in declarative form. (not a question)
- ▶ Clearly describes a relationship between the variables
- ▶ Reflect a theory or body of literature
- ▶ Brief and to the point
- ▶ Be testable.

(Salkind, 2009)

Introduction

Introduction

- ▶ Title at the top of the page
- ▶ Three components-
 - ▶ The problem under study
 - ▶ Broad context and significance of the topic
 - ▶ The literature review
 - ▶ Past research and theory
 - ▶ State how previous research is related to your study (support it or not, and why?)
 - ▶ The rationale and hypothesis
 - ▶ State variables being studied
- ▶ **Other Tips:** completely research topic, create outline

Research Template Outline

INTRODUCTION ONLY AND SAMPLES



Writing Your Literature Review

APA STYLE, 7TH EDITION

[HTTPS://APASTYLE.APA.ORG/](https://apastyle.apa.org/)

Parenthetical & Narrative Citations

Paraphrase the following with parenthetical or narrative citations:

- ▶ Interpersonal therapy (IPT) is an empirically-based treatment for a major depressive episode (MDE) (Elkin et al., 1989) and IPT based trials and trials that target an at-risk population appear to hold the most promise for further study (Werner et al., 2015). IPT based interventions target those factors that appear to play a role in PPD (e.g., social support, role transitions, life stressors). Previously, we conducted two randomized control pilot studies which used a selective IPT-based intervention to reduce the likelihood of PPD in pregnant women on public assistance and at risk for PPD.

Examples-

- ▶ **Zlotnick and colleagues (2016)** noted IPT is an empirically-based treatment for those who displayed MDE and this trial for this study was based on pregnant women.
- ▶ IPT is an empirically-based treatment for those who displayed MDE and this trial for this study was based on pregnant women **(Zlotnick et al., 2016)**.

Helpful Resources



Integrated Article Worksheet

PEGS WORKSHOP, MARCH 2019



Appendices

RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE SPSS
TRAINING CLUB

SPSSTRAININGCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Methods Section

Some topics to keep in mind while writing the methodology section

Demographics

- ← Where are you obtaining your participants
- ← Age
- ← Gender

Groups

- ← Are your participants being divided into groups? If so, state them and their purpose (control vs experimental group)

Materials

- ← State any test and scale that will be use for your research. If performing a unique task aside from any test or scale that can be obtained from peer reviewed articles, then every element needs to be included

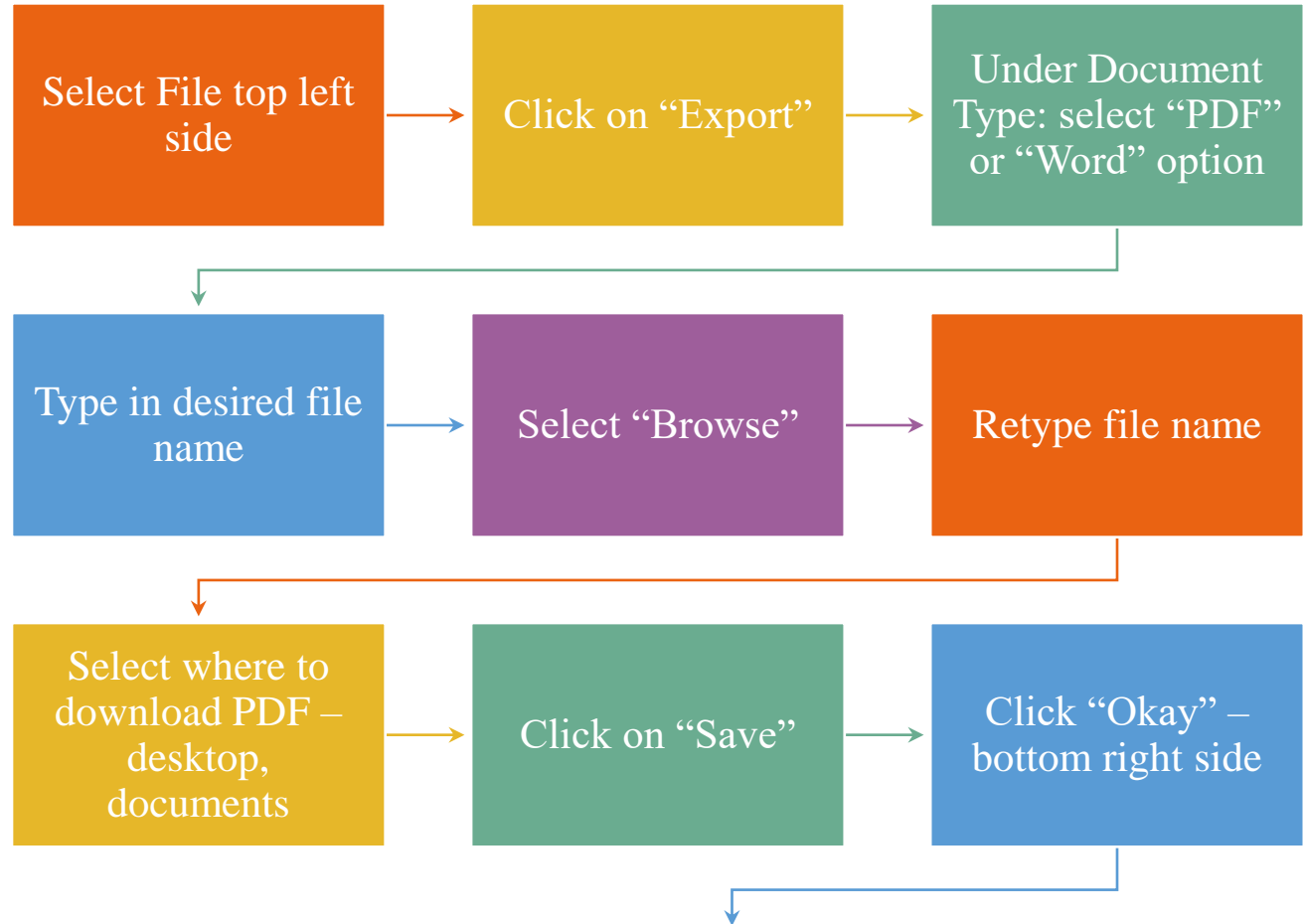
How the research was conducted

- ← Provide important details and information as if you want someone else to mirror exactly what you are doing.

Result

- ← State the outcome of your research and whether your data supports your hypothesis
- ← The minimum requirement regarding data would be to include your mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) for each variable.
- ← You can include visuals such as table charts or graphs to help you present your data
- ← Percentages are displayed in parentheses with no decimal places
- ← Not an in-depth report

Saving Charts/Tables



NOTE: PDF will begin to download, charts may take longer to load than result tables

Discussion

- ← This part of the paper is where you describe what you have written in your body paragraphs and the literature that supports your hypothesis
- ← Then you explain your study and the results you have collected!
- ← While your results shows significance, data results and other statistical jargon, your discussion gives you the opportunity to explain those numbers

Discussion

Limitations

- Explains any setbacks you had during your study, including insignificance

Example:

- Not enough diversity
- Weak Validity of measure (some items did not ask what you were measuring)
- Errors on SPSS

Discussion



Future
Research



Recommendations on
the study for future
research (i.e., what
could be done
differently?)



What does your
study help in
society?



New ideas for
variable reliability

Resources

Video on how to format a word document for your APA 7th edition style research paper:

← <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9hXY1xiZjo>

Video on how to manually create a table using Word

← https://youtu.be/Xt_2ohUL9BI

Video on how to manually create a table using Google Docs

← <https://youtu.be/-L12VmUPJQY>