



# HPS121 Assessment Task 2: Lab Report Part B Guide

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## Assessment task basics

Assignment title	Assessment Task 2: Lab Report Part B
Due date	<b>8pm AEST Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b> (Week 10) <a href="#">TimeZone converter</a>
% of final grade	35%
Word limit	1200 words with a +10% leeway
Submission location	Via <a href="#">HPS121 CloudDeakin dropbox</a>
Assignment format	.doc, .docx, or .pdf. (pages will <b>not</b> be accepted) <a href="#">Free PDF conversion software</a>
Referencing	<a href="#">APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition</a>

## Assessment task overview

**Assessment task 2 (AT2): Lab Report Part B** is the Results, Discussion, and Abstract sections of a laboratory (lab) report.

As discussed in the early seminars, a lab report is a way of presenting the rationale, methodology, results, and interpretation of a study that aims to answer a specific research question. In AT1, you wrote the Introduction and Method sections. Following on from AT1, AT2 completes the lab report with the Results, Discussion, and Abstract sections.

This guide provides you with the results for your study and has everything you need to know to finish off your lab report.

In addition to engaging with this document, you will need to engage with the following:

1. Lab report videos
  - We have created a series of videos that introduce you to the core aspects of a lab report and how to write each section. You will need to watch particular videos **before attending** certain seminars. See the table at the bottom of the [AT2 information page](#) for more information.
2. Weekly 1.5-hour seminar
  - Within the seminars, we will practice the skills that the corresponding lab

report videos introduce you to. They are also an opportunity for you to ask your tutor questions in order to do well on this assignment task.

In the videos and seminars, you will learn that a lab report is a scientific write up of a study you have conducted. In this case, we have conducted the data analysis for you and presented you with the statistical output you need to write your Results and Discussion below.

### **Why am I writing a lab report?**

The two main reasons you are being tasked with writing a lab report are outlined below:

**1. To learn how to engage with scientific evidence, and understand what information is trustworthy**

- This is achieved by reading and evaluating prior studies and by simulating the experience of conducting your own study (which we will provide you the details of), so that you can gain insight into how studies are actually conducted and discover their potential limitations and strengths.
- Understanding this will help you not just if you choose to become a researcher in the future, but also if you choose to become a psychologist of any kind, because all psychological practice needs to be evidence based, i.e., psychologists help people by using what has been demonstrated to be effective by science. Even if you choose to not be a psychologist, you will gain a better understanding of how to know what information in the world is trustworthy, which is useful for day-to-day life and in many fields.

**2. To learn how to communicate effectively**

- Written communication is one of the most important skills you will develop at university. This lab report will teach you how to synthesise and evaluate information in order to draw your own conclusions and communicate them to the reader. This is a skill that is challenging and takes time to develop, which is why we want to start teaching you this as early as possible.

## Learning outcomes

Undertaking AT2 will grow, evidence, and assess your development of the following unit learning objectives:

ULO2	Develop research literacy, by sourcing and understanding appropriate journal articles relevant to a research topic.
ULO5	Accurately interpret and present statistical output from an empirical study in the form of a written report.
ULO6	Develop critical thinking in evaluating the findings and communicating the limitations and implications of an empirical study in the form of a written report.

## Lab report topic

### Study information

Data for this study were collected via an online survey in Weeks 0-2 of the trimester from the HPS121/HPY713 T2 2023 cohort of students.

### Background information

Self-compassion has been identified to be an important contributor to a person's resilience. It involves being warm and kind to ourselves (self-kindness), understanding that mistakes and suffering are common amongst all humans (common humanity) and observing thoughts and feelings as they are, without exaggeration or suppression (mindfulness). Interestingly, there is some evidence to show that individuals high in self-compassion may also have better wellbeing. Specifically, we investigated two different types of wellbeing – hedonic wellbeing (i.e., happiness and contentment) and eudaimonic wellbeing (i.e., meaning and purpose in life) - and whether self-compassion related differently to each type.

## Lab report structure

Part B of your lab report includes the following sections, in this exact order: Title page, Abstract, Results, Discussion, and References. See below for more details of what is required in each.

## Title page

- Must follow guidelines for an APA style cover page.
- This must be the first page of your assessment and be one page in length.
- Must include a unique title that you come up with to represent the study.
- It must include your unique title, your name, your student number, the unit code and the assessment (AT2: Lab Report Part B), your unit chair, the date you submitted, and the final word count.
- You should also include a page number on each page of the assessment.

## Abstract

Your abstract is a short overview of all the sections in your lab report. For HPS121 students, the abstract has a word count of 200 words, included within the overall word count of 1200. A good abstract will briefly and concisely answer the following questions:

- Why is the topic important and what does past research say, as a whole?
- What is the aim of the study?
- Who were the participants and what did they do?
- What were the key findings, and did they support your hypotheses?
- How do the findings fill a gap in the literature and how might they be useful in the real world?

## Results

The following information should be conveyed in the Results section in a concise, organised, and informative manner, with correct APA formatting.

### *Mean scores on the scales*

These give an indication of whether participants score high, moderate, or low on the scales on average. You need to know the scale end points from your method section to interpret these. Remember to round these statistics to either 2 or 3 decimals.

- Self-compassion: Mean = 2.7956; Standard deviation = .65007
- Hedonic wellbeing: Mean = 5.5670; Standard deviation = 1.12195

- Eudaimonic wellbeing: Mean = 5.5271; Standard deviation = 1.29067

### Correlations

The  $p$ -value tells us the significance of the relation between the two variables (i.e., is it a significant correlation or is there no significant relation?). The  $r$  tells us the strength (i.e., weak, moderate, or strong) and direction (i.e., positive or negative) of the significant relations (note: Do not interpret  $r$  for non-significant relationships).

- Eudaimonic wellbeing and self-compassion:  $r = .504$ ,  $p = .034$
- Hedonic wellbeing and self-compassion:  $r = .462$ ,  $p = .078$

### Discussion

The discussion is where you provide an interpretation of your results, integrate them with past literature, and reflect on the limitations and implications of your findings, as well as possible directions for future research.

The **first paragraph** should restate the aim and the findings, and state whether the findings support the hypotheses.

Then, there should be **one paragraph for each hypothesis/finding** that answers the following:

- Restate the finding: What did you find?
- Interpretation of the finding: What does this finding mean in plain terms?
- Explanation of the finding: Why do you think this finding occurred?
  - If finding is in line with prediction, reiterate rationale from Introduction and articulate what it adds that previous literature didn't show
  - If finding is not in line with prediction, need to provide alternative explanation
- Research implications of the finding: Is the finding consistent with past literature?
  - If it is consistent, what does it add that previously literature does not show?
  - If it is not consistent, why might your findings be different from previous?
- Real-world implications of the finding: How can the findings be used to help people in the real world, or to solve the problem you initially identified?

Then you should have a paragraph that covers at least **2 limitations of your study**. You need to not only mention the limitation, but also explain why it is an issue/how exactly it limits the findings, and what you think could be done differently to overcome the issue. Either in the same paragraph or in a new one, you should also provide at least **2 directions for future research**. These suggestions should be about logical follow up research questions, based on what you know now from your study.

Finally, you should have a **conclusion paragraph** that summarises the key takeaways from your study, i.e., what has been learned from your study and why it is important.

*\*Important note:* To learn more about how to structure and write your lab report, you will need to watch the lab report videos and attend your seminars.

## References

Provide an APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition style reference list of all the articles you included.

*Note.* The majority of relevant articles should already have been covered in the introduction, so it is not required to have new articles included in the Discussion. However, if you would like to include a new article in the discussion to help support a new argument you are making you can do so.

The Deakin guide to APA7 can be found here: [APA 7 referencing guide](#)

## Important policy requirements

### Academic integrity

Breaching academic integrity in your assessments, whether through plagiarism, collusion, or contract cheating, is cheating, and is not accepted at Deakin. For example, you should not take someone else's work or ideas and pass them off as your own. If your work contains material copied from a classmate or an external source, your work will be referred to the Faculty Academic Integrity Committee. If you are found guilty of an academic integrity breach, possible penalties include a zero mark for the assessment task, zero marks for the unit, or expulsion from your course.

Please read more information on academic integrity by clicking on this link:

[Academic integrity](#)

If you have any questions about academic integrity, please do not hesitate to contact the unit team at [hps121@deakin.edu.au](mailto:hps121@deakin.edu.au) or contact [Study Support](#).

### **How the work will be assessed and expected standard**

The marking rubric contains the criteria and performance levels (i.e., grade standards) that you will be assessed on in AT2. Your marker will use the same rubric and award marks based on the stipulated criteria. When you finish AT2, compare it against the marking rubric to ensure you have covered each criterion sufficiently before submitting your work. The marking rubric can be accessed from the CloudDeakin unit site once available.

### **Submitting your assignment**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are submitting the correct document, i.e., it is your HPS121 assignment, and it is the final version you wish to submit for marking, and that it is of an acceptable format (see table at top of document). Faculty of Health policy stipulates that we can only mark what has been uploaded to the assignment dropbox, so it is very important that you do not upload the wrong file or version by mistake. If you submit multiple versions, we will always mark the most recent submission.

If you submit the incorrect file (e.g., a .pages document, the assignment from a different unit, or an empty template), you have until 7 days after the due date to resubmit the correct document. Late penalties will be applied to this resubmitted assignment in accordance with policy (i.e., 5% deducted for each calendar day late, up to a maximum of 7 days). If you do not resubmit the correct document within this 7-day period, we are unable to accept your assignment and you will receive a 0 for the assessment task.

### **Word count penalties**



If you exceed the maximum word count of 1320 (1200 + 10%), your marker will stop reading your assignment at 1320 words and will not mark any work beyond that point.

## **Additional support**

### **Access Plans**

If you are a student experiencing a disability, health condition, or mental health condition that affects your study, or your participation in university life, contact the [Disability Resource Centre](#) for assistance and to arrange an Access Plan. An Access Plan is a study support plan prepared to minimise the educational disadvantage you may experience as a result of your disability or condition.

### **Technical support**

If you encounter technical issues while completing your assessment, please lodge a support ticket through the [IT Service Desk](#) online or contact the Service Desk via phone:

Internal phones: 888

Off-campus: 1800 463 888

International: +61 3 5227 8888

### **Frequently asked questions**

Please refer to the [FAQs](#) on the unit site for answers to common questions. There is a page dedicated to commonly asked questions for each section of the lab report.

### **Extra Help! Writing, statistics, and research skills**

Please refer to the [Extra Help](#) page on the unit site for extra help with writing, statistics, and research skills (like how to find supporting evidence).

## Discussion boards

If you have additional questions to those answered in the FAQ, feel free to ask on the relevant discussion board on the unit site:

[Results section discussion board](#)

[Discussion section discussion board](#)

[Abstract discussion board](#)

[APA and referencing discussion board](#)