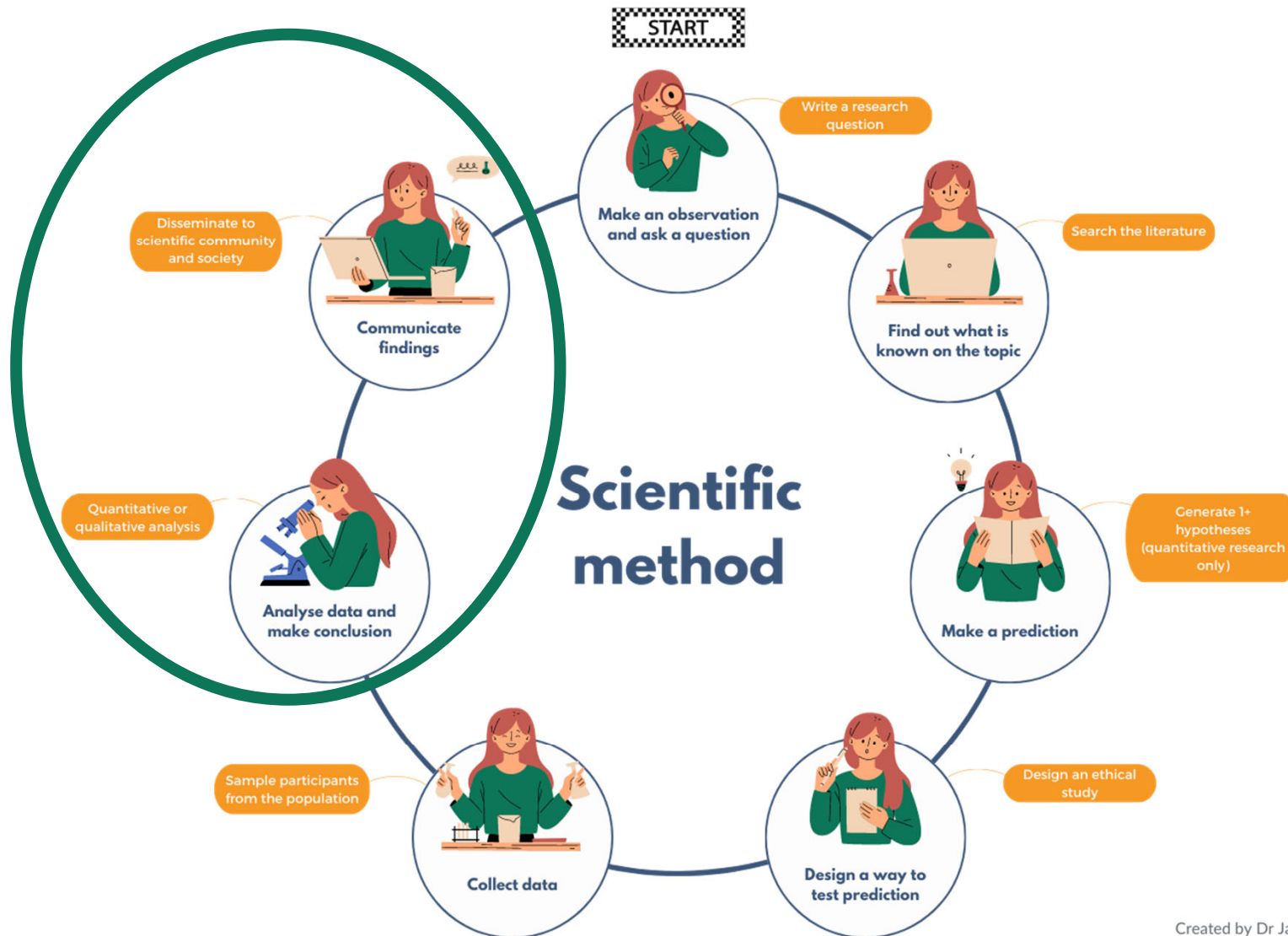


# Lab report video 5

Discussion section

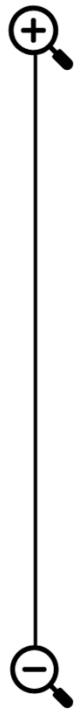


# Purpose of the Discussion section

- Interpret the findings
- Explain the findings
- Discuss the implications of the findings
- Discuss potential limitations of the findings
- Make suggestions for future research

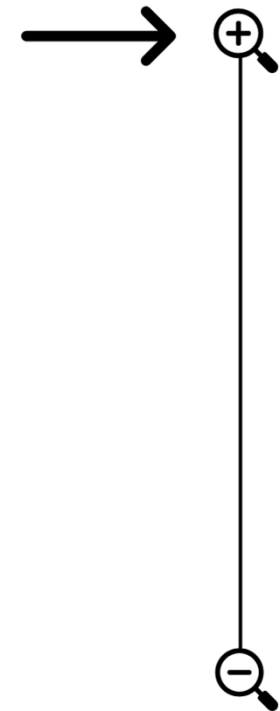
# Structure of the Discussion section

1. Restate aim and whether findings support hypotheses
2. Interpret each of your findings in relation to past literature and provide an explanation for each
3. Identify limitations and future directions
4. Conclusion



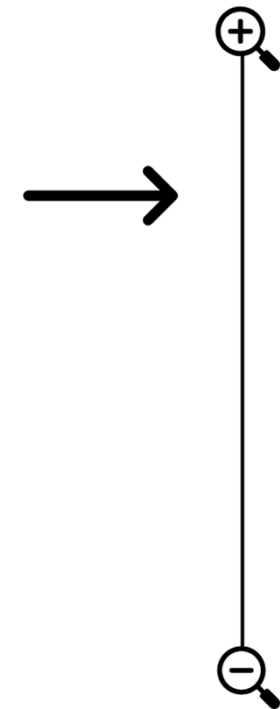
# 1. Restate aim, findings, and how findings relate to hypotheses

- 1 paragraph
- Briefly restate aim to reorient the reader
- Briefly state the findings from the main analyses and state whether the findings support the hypotheses



## 2. Interpret findings re past literature and explain

- 1 paragraph on each hypothesis and associated finding
- Restate the finding: What did you find?
- Interpret the finding: What does this finding mean in plain terms?
- Explain the finding: Why do you think this finding occurred?
  - If finding is in line with prediction, reiterate rationale from Introduction
  - 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 yes, what does it add that previous literature does not show?
  - If no, why might your findings be different from previous findings?
- 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?

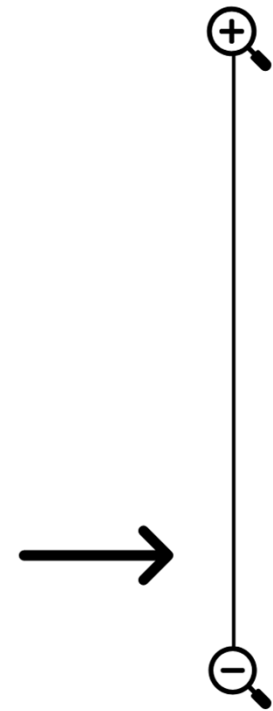


# Sidebar on statistically non-significant findings

- Findings that are not statistically significant (i.e., those with a  $p$ -value of  $\geq .05$ ) are just as important as statistically significant findings
- You still need to interpret, explain, and discuss the implications of statistically non-significant findings
- You should consider the possibility that your statistically non-significant findings might reflect the true nature of the relationships between the variables
- You should not simply explain away statistically non-significant findings as a mistake or being due to methodological error

### 3. Identify limitations and future directions

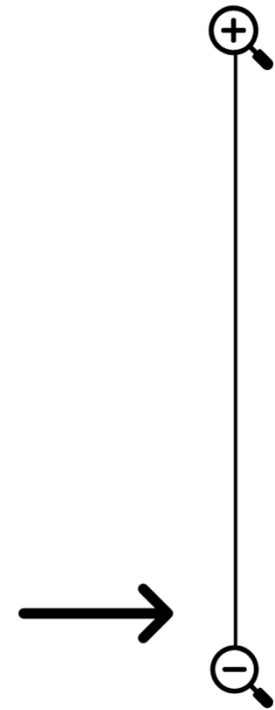
- 1-2 paragraphs
- Limitations of your study, discussed using the following formula:
  - a) Clearly state the limitation
  - b) Explain why it could be a potential issue/how it limits the findings
  - c) What you think could/should be done differently in future to avoid or overcome issue
- Directions for future research
  - Should be logical follow-up research questions, based on what we now know from your study
  - What do you think we, as researchers, should look at next in this area?





## 4. Conclusion

- 1 paragraph
- Summarise the key takeaway messages from your study, i.e., what has been learnt from your study and why is that important?
- Try to make a lasting impression



# Skills involved in completing the Discussion section

- Accuracy
- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Logic
- Communicating clearly and professionally

# Questions

Please post any questions you might have on the discussion boards.