

Introduction Grading Rubric

	Score
<p>Interest. Describe why this topic is interesting / important to theory or everyday life, perhaps by describing some important consequences of the findings. Rather than starting too broadly (e.g., “College is a unique period in people’s lives.”), try to start at the level of your study (e.g., “What impact does college students’ involvement in extra-curricular activities have on their time-management skills?”).</p>	
<p>Hypothesis or research question. Your introduction should provide all essential background for understanding your hypothesis or research question. In general, each point needed to support your hypothesis should be a separate paragraph.</p>	
<p>References. How well-chosen and well-used are the references for the points that are being made? To what degree are references integrated (rather than annotated bibliography)? Consider how articles may be making the same point and combine when possible. Avoid “Past research shows that...” Instead, just state the findings themselves.</p>	
<p>Structure. Ideas consolidated and presented in the best order? Lead with the most important concept in your study. Is the overview of the methods presented in the last paragraph? Do the authors refer to their own study only at the end of the Introduction?</p>	
<p>Overall clarity and style, absence of grammatical errors, using a tone that is objective and not argumentative.</p>	

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Common errors leading to point deductions	
Lateness	
Number of approved references less than five cited in the Introduction	
Factual statements not backed up by citations	
Error in formatting statistics in text (e.g., $t(23) = 2.4$)	
Hypothesis / predictions not clearly stated	
Manuscript (including Reference section) not double-spaced	
Citations not formatted correctly	
Paragraphs without transitions	
Incorrect heading (e.g., Methods, Participants) formatting	
Poor / misleading choice of title	