

Yamaris Astorga

Writing for the Sciences

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The IMRAD is scientific writing that breaks up experiments into organized paragraphs. The first is the introduction (I), where there is a brief explanation of the experiment and its hypothesis. The second is the methodology (M) where the specific order in which the experiment was conducted is written down concisely. The methodology must be exact in a way that allows for one to effortlessly replicate the experiment. The third is the results (R) which is typed and visual raw data without interpretation. Interpretation begins in the analysis (A) where conclusions are drawn and connected to the original hypothesis. Last but not least, is the Discussion (D) where further directions for the experiment are delved into, such as changes that would better results and offer easier experimentation. My experiment was an emulation of the Deese Roediger Mcdermott Paradigm, which is a controlled test to study how one can have fake memories.

My intention was to offer extra correlation between sleep and fake memories, as studies typically show having more sleep gives one a higher chance of having fake memories, whereas those with less sleep have a less chance of fake memories. My experiment did end up benign successful. Throughout this semester, I felt that this was more of my “fun” projects that I was able to do. Being able to go in front of the class and perform an experiment was not nearly as daunting as I had imagined, and offered me results that a survey alone could not have offered me. In addition, the presentation aspect was also interesting being able to share my findings with the

same participants I experimented on. As for my writing process, I felt the IMRAD was a very straightforward format in regards to the conciseness of my experiment.

In addition to the positives, there were also some setbacks when it comes to my experiment, writing, and presentation. Although I thought my idea and experiment was well thought out, there was a time crunch that did not allow me to work to my fullest potential. My IMRAD could have been proofread better and more concise. When it comes to my wording, I feel that I “word vomit”, and type the same way as if I am talking. Especially since the usual audience for IMRADs is other researchers and scientists, this is not ideal. IMRADs also have a very passive scientific tone, which I do not think I was consistent with due to the point I made above. In addition, I felt if I had practiced my presentation more, I would have been more confident while presenting and expressing my words clearly. I also think I lacked eye contact with the audience. Furthermore, in my future work, I intend to be more intentional with my time and my tone when writing academic papers such as an IMRAD. I also would think more about my audience and who I am trying to convey my message to, as I usually read my work over with the perspective that it will just be me reading it. All in all, this assignment allowed me to be more imaginative in my writing while also introducing me to a new form of writing that will be heavily used within the field of science.