



Writing Your Methods

Methods Section

- **This section provides all the methodological details necessary for another scientist to duplicate your work.**
- It should be a narrative of the steps you took in your experiment or study, not a list of instructions such as you might find in a cookbook.
- You should assume that the other scientist has the same basic skills that you have, but does not know the specific details of your experiment.
- In the last paragraph, provide a brief description of statistical tests you used (**statistics are methods!**). Be sure not to include extraneous information, though, as scientists know all about null hypotheses and when to reject them.

Brainstorm what specific details should be included in your Methods section.

Start Writing your Method

Items to include in your method

- **The materials that we used were....**
 - **Organisms Used:** Use scientific names (e.g. *Apis mellifera*)
 - **Experimental set up:** Describe sugar dishes (color and size), 2.5 Molar sucrose solution, and tripod
- **First we trained the bees....**
 - **Several days before:** Start at the entrance to the hive. Then once there are 7-8 bees there, move it back, at first 0.5 meters, then increasingly far, until it is 5 meters away.
 - Describe sugar dishes and tripod.
- **On the day of the experiment, we will retrain the bees using the same method and stopping 5 meters from the hive.**
- **Then we set up our experiment...**
 - Describe sugar dishes and tripod
 - Variable and Control
 - Describe how to create the experimental and control dish (attaching predator)
- **We collected the following data...**
 - (quantitative and qualitative)
 - Experimental duration
 - Switching the control and experiment dish every two minutes and thirty seconds
- **We statistically analyzed the data by...**