

## EXAMPLES OF QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH REPORTS

Do you remember my recurring nightmare? You've conscientiously answered all of the questions in Chapters 4 through 7 but the report doesn't "hang together" – you haven't connected the dots. Can I effectively describe how to create an integrated research report? Perhaps. But I would rather show you.

Undergraduate emerging researchers wrote the sample papers included in Chapters 9 through 11. They, like you, struggled within their quantitative research methods class to produce coherent, informative, and meaningful work. And they spent multiple hours in revision.

The three samples broadly illustrate how social and behavioral scientists tackle writing a quantitative research report. Consequently, the papers reflect the three major methodological approaches in social and behavioral science: content analysis, secondary data analysis, and primary data collection. Further, the papers showcase different disciplines (Political Science, Sociology, and Psychological Science) and the finger-lickin'-good organizational conventions (The Simpson, The Humanoid, and The Count Rugen).

I adapted students' papers in two important ways. I adjusted content to illustrate certain strategies I presented in earlier chapters (e.g., interrogating counterintuitive or unexpected results). Further, I reformatted the papers using three of the four major formatting styles highlighted in this book (APSA for Political Science, ASA for Sociology, and APA for Psychological Science).

To save space, I did not perfectly replicate all aspects of each formatting style. Let me highlight the major differences:

- *Title page.* I included only the title of the paper and the author. You should examine how your formatting style specifies institutional affiliation and other information, including contact information, funding, and acknowledgements.
- *Abstract.* Some style guides require word count or keywords with the abstract; I included neither. Further, some style guides require that abstracts appear on the title page.

### SECTION 3

- *Line spacing.* I used single spacing throughout the sections with additional spacing between sections and headers to help your eyes parse the major sections and subsections of the paper. All formatting styles require double-spacing and most do *not* incorporate additional spacing between sections.
- *Page numbers and running heads.* These are non-existent in the samples; look them up!
- *Figure and table placement.* To improve readability, I included figures and tables where they would most logically appear within the narrative. Depending on your formatting style, you might place them at the end of your manuscript.
- *References.* References should be the same point-size as the rest of the manuscript (typically 12-point font). The point-size included in the sample papers is considerably smaller.
- *Pagination.* Some formatting styles call for page breaks following the abstract and other sections of the research report.
- *Appendices.* No appendices are included.

Even if these sample papers do not derive from your home discipline, they illustrate how the concepts and strategies included in earlier chapters manifest across contexts. The exterior features may be different, but the heartbeat is the same. Think of songs that you can't help but move to – or at least tap a finger or foot to. Rhythmic patterns that balance complexity and predictability make people want to dance (Witek, Clarke, Wallentin, Kringelback, & Vuust, 2014). It doesn't matter if it's Ray Charles, Pharrell, Mark Ronson, or Aretha Franklin; you dance because your body wants to fill the space between the beats (Doucleff, 2014). That's what these sample papers do – in their unique way they find the optimal space between predictability and complexity so readers can get their groove on.