

## Educational Manuscript Template

Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry  
University of the Pacific

09.2024

Most educational manuscripts follow this structure: *Introduction (and Literature Review), Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion*. Please customize based on journal requirements.

### Introduction

---

*[In this section, describe the background and purpose of your study. This is where you can make a strong case for the significance of your research.]*

#### **Discuss the background of the study.**

Example: national trends, accreditation requirements, challenges that you want to address such as limited instructional time, large size classes, students' motivation, faculty calibration, etc.

#### **Briefly introduce the innovative program/material implemented.**

Example: To promote active learning and engagement, we created interactive online materials using xxx, a cloud-based learning platform.

#### **State the research purpose(s) and list research questions.**

Example: The purposes of this study are to...This study was guided by following research questions.

1. Research question 1 here.
2. Research question 2 here.

### Literature Review

---

*[In this section, review and synthesize existing literature pertinent to your research topic. If your study is guided by a theoretical framework, describe it as well.]*

#### Examples

- *What are the key findings they have reported? What are the conclusions they have made?*
- *What, if any, are the gaps in literature? (e.g., did existing research report inconsistent findings; is there a lack of research on certain aspects?)*

**Note:** Depending on journal requirements, Literature Review might be in a separate section or embedded into the Introduction section.

## Methods

---

*[In this section, describe the study context, research design, participants, the innovative strategy/program implemented, and data collection and analysis methods.]*

### Study context and participants

*Describe the study context to help readers understand the conditions under which the study was conducted.*

#### Introduce the study site

Example: if the research study was conducted at Pacific Dugoni, briefly introduce the school (e.g., programs offered, class size, etc.) and other details pertinent to your study.

#### Introduce participants

Example: Which class was invited to participate, which class was excluded and why, etc.

#### Provide IRB approval

Example: The study was approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (#XXX).

### Innovation/materials

*Describe in detail the innovative strategy or material you have implemented.*

Example: When was it implemented? How was it implemented? Provide the step-by-step process.

### Data collection

*Describe the data collection procedures and instruments, e.g., when data was collected, what data collection tools/instrument (s) were used, who developed the instrument, and how it was administered.*

### [Let's use surveys and exam scores as examples.]

#### Surveys

*Describe the survey design.*

Example:

- When was the survey administered?
- How was it administered (e.g., survey platform used)?
- Number of survey questions, question format, rating scale
- Anonymous? Voluntary or mandatory? Incentives to take the survey, if any?
- How many students responded to the survey, etc.

#### Exam scores

*Describe the exam design.*

Example:

- Who wrote the assessment questions?

- How many questions, question format, total maximum points, content covered?
- How it was administered (e.g., Canvas, ExamSoft)?

### Data analysis

*Describe how you analyzed the data listed above.*

#### Survey data analysis

Describe how you analyzed the survey data.

#### Exam score analysis

Describe how you analyzed the exam score data.

#### Tips:

- For quantitative data: you might calculate descriptive data such as mean, frequency count, etc. Depending on your research questions, you might also run statistical tests.
- For qualitative data, you might read to identify emerging themes.

## Results

---

*[In this section, present your findings by research question.]*

### Findings for research question one

*Present the findings for question one.*

### Findings for research question two

*Present the findings for question one.*

**Tips:** Whenever appropriate, use tables or graphics to visualize the data.

## Discussion

---

*[In this section, discuss implications of the findings, limitations of the study, and future directions.]*

#### Some examples of things you can discuss in this section:

- Implications of the findings, e.g., implications for teaching and learning.
- Explain any unexpected findings.
- Compare your findings with what have been reported in the literature.

## Limitations and future directions

*Identify limitations of your study and propose some future directions.*

### Examples of limitations

- Small sample size, didn't have a control group; used only one single source of data, etc.

### Examples of future directions

- *Use a larger sample size, use a control group, collect data from other sources, etc.*

---

## Conclusions

*[In this section, briefly summarize key findings and conclusions. A few sentences are sufficient.]*

## References

Format the references according to journal requirements.

## Appendix (if any)

Attach your data collection instruments such as survey and interview questions.