Introduction

-Text of paper begins with introduction

-Good introduction should include
  1. Presentation of general topic area, general controversy, etc
  2. A brief review of the research findings and theories related to the topic.
  3. A statement of the purpose of the present research (link the literature review with your specific topic)
  4. A brief description of the method
  5. A description of any predictions about the outcome and of the hypotheses used to generate those predictions (State specific hypotheses)

Example:

Paragraph 1: discuss in general terms the issue you have chosen to study

Paragraphs 2- x: develop underlying logic and rationale for your study in more specific terms by reviewing relevant research and integrating its findings.

Identify problem addressed by your research and state the purpose of your study

Show how your study addresses the question under study and state your specific hypotheses.

Question: How much should I include in a review?

- no need to be comprehensive, assume some knowledge of basic psychological concepts
- bring reader up to date on most relevant literature

Formulating a Hypothesis

-tentative statement predicting the relationship between your variables of interest

Examples: Jurors exposed to antidefendant pretrial publicity will be more likely to convict a defendant than jurors not exposed to antidefendant pretrial publicity

-Note hypothesis includes
  -specific variables (independent and dependent)
  -statement indicating specifically how they are expected to relate to one another

-often take the form of a statement of how changes in one variable affect the value of another
-identify variables from your general research questions and link them with a specific statement which predicts the expected relationship between them.

Sample:

General: Age has an effect on memory
Specific Hypothesis: Older adults will recall fewer details correctly than younger adults.
Methods
- tell your reader EXACTLY how your study was conducted

- includes characteristics of subjects, materials, and apparatus, as well as procedures used

- level of detail should be sufficient to allow someone else to replicate your study

- usually divided into subsections to improve organization and readability

- APA style permits considerable flexibility in how divisions are made and labeled.
- begins immediately after the introduction (no need to start new page)

Subsections:
1. Subjects or Participants: depending on whether animals or humans used
- information about relevant demographic variables: sex, age, race,
- procedures for selection
- assignment to treatments
- any special agreements (payment, credit, etc.)
- information on personal (IQ; personality) or special characteristics
- indicate that your subjects were treated in accordance with APA ethical codes

2. Apparatus or Materials: equipment or any materials used to measure behavior
- Apparatus means equipment such as slide projectors, computers
- Materials: primarily written material (questionnaires, rating scales)
- If you use standardized test: such as Stanford-Binet, simply name the test, version, and how obtained
- if you designed a new measure, describe in detail
- place copies in appendix

3. Procedure: tell the reader precisely what procedure was used throughout the course of the study
- include details about the instructions they received, procedures for assigning them to conditions, how experimental manipulations were presented.

- describe how they were observed, how behaviors measured or scored, when measures were taken, and any debriefing procedures.

4. Combining Subsections: if it makes it clearer, you may combine subjects and apparatus, or apparatus and procedures

Formatting: Center word "Method", double space and type word "Subjects" beginning at left margin and underline. Move down 2 lines, indent and start first paragraph of subjects subsection. Use same format for materials, procedure, etc.