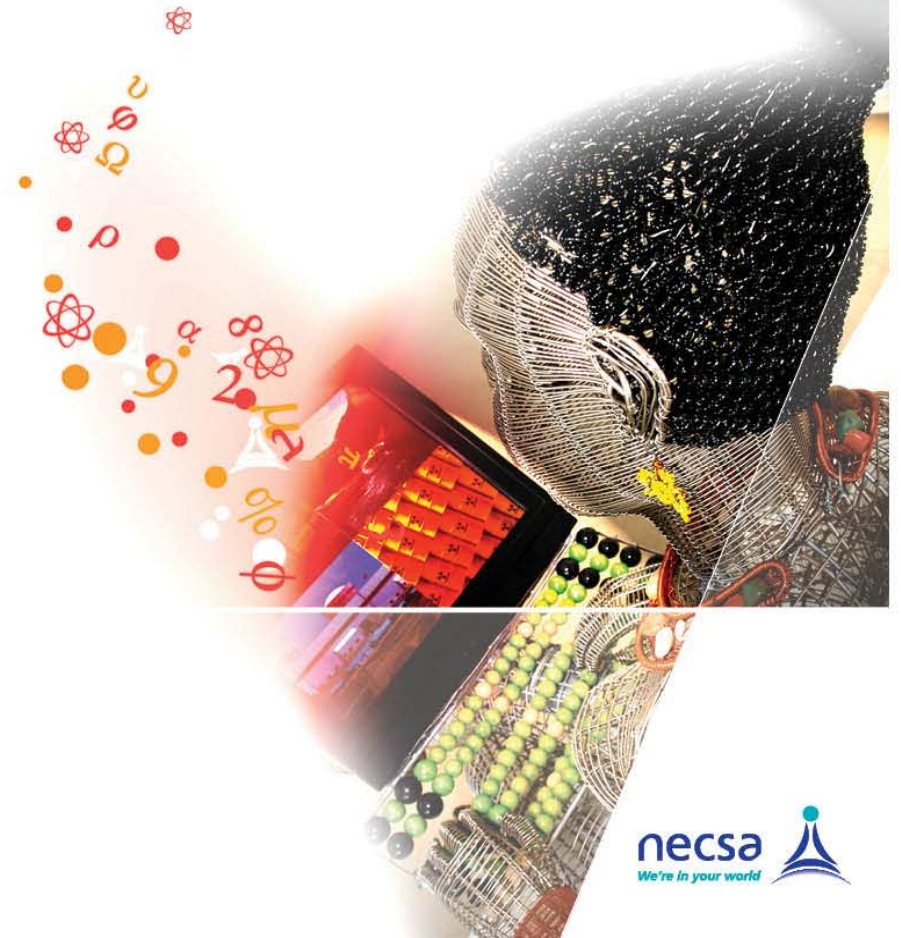


Writing a publication

Results and discussion

ASSAf workshop
29 & 30 March 2012

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Results (What you see)

- Neutral information
- Results, carefully presented, contribute to the impression of research well done
- Findings – but not the raw data
- Logical presentation of results
- Include sufficient relevant data to justify your conclusion
- Data not supporting the hypothesis **might not** be ignored

- As a sentence in the text, e.g.

The Grignard step resulted in yields ranging from 2.6 to 55.9% with the average yield being 21.1%

OR

- In a table

OR

- In a figure

- When exact values are important
- When there are no clear patterns
- The results consists of a lot of words
- Tables are two-dimensional, i.e. read from left to right and from top to bottom
- It is easier to compare data in a column than in a row
- Repetitive data should not be given in a column – rather as a footnote

Figures

- Trends and relationships
- The basic point at a glance

- Caption - Unique number and a title
- Title – Concise description of the significance of the table or figure
- Caption: Tables above, figures below
- Conventions, e.g.
 - Figures should not have borders
 - Tables should not have grids but only three horizontal lines
 - Words in columns should be aligned left
 - Numbers in columns should be aligned at the decimal point

Every table and figure must be referred to in the text by name and number

- The effects of an aqueous extract of the leaves of *S. Senegambica* on plasma marker enzymes of salt-loaded rats are given in Table 1.
- SEM investigations of the joint (Fig. 13) exhibited very good filler adhesion to the joined areas of the Al_2O_3 ceramic partners.

The Discussion

- An interpretation of the results in terms of trends, characteristics, etc. (What you think you see)
- Compare or explain your new results with reference to published data or theories. (What you think it means)
- Point out any discrepancies and suggest possible explanations for these observed discrepancies
- Discuss the implications of your work, both theoretical and practical
- Relate your results to the original purpose or aim of the research

Conclusion

- Summarise the main findings
- Explain how the research question has been answered
- Point out the advantages disadvantages, and limitations of the current research
- Mention which aspects of the research problem have still not been answered

- Scientists use tentative or hedging verbs like *suggest, possibly, indicate* rather than more strongly worded claims like *prove, definitely, conclude*
- In the Discussion you need to convince the reader that you answered the research question
- This is the most important part of an article.