

What should be the content of my short report?

Here we provide a list of things that your short report should contain in order to be accepted. Feel free to extend this list yourself, but make sure that report size remains reasonable (ie somewhere between one and three pages).

1. Which sequences were used for the analysis, why did you make this choice and how did you obtain the sequences?
2. Which method did you use for your analysis, and why?
3. What are your results and your conclusions?
4. Does your conclusion fit with the literature or your expectation? If not, do you have any suggestions for further research?

And here are some suggestions to make it a good report:

- Do not paste a number of figures and tables together with a minimum number of connecting sentences in between, but tell a story from which you refer to a limited number of figures and tables. From the text you may write sentences describing some interesting result, and just end that sentence with (see Fig. 3a).
- Figures and tables have legends that should be self-explanatory.
- Do not write a sequential story of all the things you did. Make a selection of the results that are truly interesting for your story and make a plan for what is the most natural order to present these results.
- Scientific writing means that your sentences should basically be true statements. If you are not sure about the general validity of a statement you should rewrite it into something less general, or prove your point with a reference to the literature. Things you don't know, you may pose as a question, or write "it is tempting to speculate".
- Check your report for repeats. Do you have to describe the same things several times because you have a suboptimal order in which the results are described?
- Be concise, do not elaborate on what is not important. Dare to make choices on what is important.

Happy writing!

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