

# 11

## Writing Introductions, Conclusions, and Abstracts

### PROBLEM SET

Answer questions 1 through 4 for a scientific paper about AIDS knowledge for different language groups in the United States (results shown in table 5.2 of *Writing about Multivariate Analysis*, 90–91). Assume you are writing for a social science journal with a 5,000-word limit for research articles (e.g., several double-spaced pages apiece for the introduction, literature review, and conclusion).

1. For your scientific paper,
  - a. Write an outline of the introduction, including complete topic sentences for each major paragraph.
  - b. List the kinds of numeric background information you would incorporate, and suggest useful types of quantitative comparisons to highlight why the topic is interesting or important.
2. Write an outline of the literature review, including headings for the different topics for which you would summarize published literature.
3. Write an outline of the concluding section, including notes on the following issues.
  - a. How would you summarize the main numeric results?
  - b. How would the statistical significance of findings influence the way you discuss the results?
  - c. List the types of numeric background information you would use to show how findings of that study might be applied to health education programs in the United States.
4. Write a title, abstract, and keywords for the paper.

5. Write one or two paragraphs discussing the research implications of Mensch and colleagues' (2003) findings about how mode of interview relates to reporting of sensitive behaviors among adolescents (table 11A).

**Table 11A. Odds ratios from logistic regressions of reporting sensitive behaviors, by mode of interview and gender, Kisumu District, Kenya, 2002**

Behavior	Boys	Girls
Ever had a boyfriend or girlfriend		
Interviewer-administered	1.00	1.00
Self-administered	0.78	0.82
ACASI <sup>a</sup>	0.43***	0.69*
Ever had more than one sexual partner		
Interviewer-administered	1.00	1.00
Self-administered	1.02	0.72
ACASI <sup>a</sup>	1.28	2.35***
Ever had sex with a stranger		
Interviewer-administered	1.00	1.00
Self-administered	1.43	1.24
ACASI <sup>a</sup>	2.42**	4.25***
Ever tricked/coerced/forced into sex		
Interviewer-administered	1.00	1.00
Self-administered	2.33***	1.89**
ACASI <sup>a</sup>	2.40***	3.35***

Source: Adapted from Barbara S. Mensch, Paul C. Hewett, and Annabel S. Erulkar, "The Reporting of Sensitive Behavior by Adolescents: A Methodological Experiment in Kenya," *Demography* 40.2 (2003): 247–68, table 2, <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/demography/v040/40.2mensch.pdf>.

\*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

<sup>a</sup>ACASI = audio computer-assisted self-interviewing.