Chapter 13: Writing about Research

Test your knowledge of Chapter 13: Writing about Research by answering the following multiple-choice questions. You can find the answers to each question at the end of this document.

1. Research reports:
   a) present at least a review of the literature, the methods used, the findings and a discussion. They have some common elements but may vary in overall organisational structure.
   b) typically present a review of the literature, the findings, a discussion and recommendations.
   c) always present recommendations as well as an outline of the methods used and the findings.
   d) always state the research question or hypothesis and are written in first person to show that the author takes responsibility for the findings.

2. What kind of information is usually presented in the limitations section of a research report?
   a) An outline of the factors that may have prevented the researcher from conducting more thorough research
   b) An outline of the extent of the research study
   c) An outline of the historical background of the research study
   d) An explanation of the research tools used to gather the data

3. Jargon is:
   a) specialised language and is always inappropriate.
   b) technical language used within a field and therefore has a place in research reports.
   c) specialised language and may be appropriate when used between peers but not with people outside the field.
   d) specialised language and is never appropriate in reports.

4. Which words best describe the writing style that should be used in research reports?
   a) Objective and detached
   b) Personal and critical.
   c) Emotive and judgemental.
   d) Subjective and detached.

5. The abstract of the report:
   a) is usually written before the rest of the report.
   b) provides a snapshot of the major section of the entire report.
   c) serves as the introduction to the report, with a focus on the background for the research.
   d) is usually several pages in length.

6. In the methods section of the report, the researcher needs to:
   a) discuss the results of the research.
   b) discuss the theoretical background for the research.
   c) recount in detail the daily research activities conducted during the research process.
   d) set out in detail how data was gathered and analysed.
7 Why is it important to identify the primary audience for the research report?
   a In order to adapt the findings to their liking
   b In order to bypass undesirable readers
   c So that the writer can adapt the writing to meet their needs (i.e. in terms of language and level of expertise)
   d In order to frame the discussion in such a way as to gain most approval for the findings

8 What is presented in the findings section of a research report?
   a A discussion of the results
   b The quantitative or qualitative data that was collected
   c The theoretical foundations for the research study
   d The methods that were used to collect the data

9 What is presented in the discussion section of a research report?
   a The numerical data that was collected
   b The reasons for undertaking the study
   c A comment on the results presented in the findings section
   d Your plans for future research

10 The conclusion of a research report:
    a can introduce new information.
    b must be based only on material presented in the report.
    c is the same as the abstract except that it is presented at the end of the report.
    d should focus only on the findings of the research.

Answers
1 A
2 A
3 C
4 A
5 B
6 D
7 C
8 B
9 C
10 B