

## Writing Methods and Results

Use the following information to write your own methods and results section.

**Research Question:** does blood pressure decrease after taking an exam?

**Hypothesis:** Diastolic and systolic blood pressure will decrease after an exam is completed.

### Participant Information:

- 25 participants – 15 female, 10 male
- Wofford College Introduction to Psychological Science students
- Age range: 18-21 yrs, mean age = 19.60 yrs, SD = 0.58

### Materials:

- Blood pressure cuff
- Introductory psychology exam (100 multiple choice questions)

### Procedure:

1. Registered nurse takes systolic and diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg)
2. Participants given exam
3. Registered nurse takes systolic and diastolic blood pressure immediately after exam

**Statistical Analysis:** paired samples t-test

**Results:** Determining whether there is a significant change in systolic and diastolic blood pressure – i.e. was blood pressure higher or lower before taking the exam, as compared to after taking the exam, or was there no change?

#### ***Systolic Blood Pressure:***

Before the exam –  $M = 120.30$ ,  $SD = 0.70$

After the exam –  $M = 110.60$ ,  $SD = 0.99$

Systolic blood pressure was significantly higher before the exam than after  
 $t(18) = 11.40$ ,  $p = .04$

#### ***Diastolic Blood Pressure:***

Before the exam –  $M = 75.60$ ,  $SD = 0.99$

After the exam –  $M = 70.90$ ,  $SD = 0.99$

No significant difference in diastolic blood pressure before and after the exam  
 $t(18) = 2.37$ ,  $p = .67$