

Table 1 Verb tenses

Paper section	Recommended tense	Example
Literature review	Past Present perfect	Abigail (2021) stated. Researchers have studied.
Method/Procedure	Past Past Present perfect	Participants took a survey. Other researchers have used similar methods.
Results (both for reporting your own or other researchers' results)	Past	Results showed. Percentage declined. Hypotheses were not supported.
Personal reactions	Past Past Present perfect Present	I felt surprised. I have experienced. I agree.
Discussion (including discussion on implications of results or of previous statements)	Present	The findings show that. This result signifies.
Conclusion, Future Recommendation, Limitations	Present	We conclude. Future research should investigate. Limitations in this study are.

Table adapted from: [Verb tense](#)