Writing a research proposal

Your research proposal should be in APA format and should address each relevant question below each heading. Remember that the research has not been conducted yet, so you should write in future tense in the method and results sections.

Cover page
Running head
Page header
Title, author, affiliation

Introduction
Your introduction will be your literature review from PSY 205. Be sure to make any changes requested by your instructor before turning it in as part of your proposal. The first sentence should grab the reader’s attention. You should identify the research problem and address why this research is important. What problem are you investigating?

The literature review should evaluate past research and inform your hypothesis. Do not simply predict what has already been done. Use past research to determine what else needs to be studied in a given area. You should include your hypotheses in this section as well along with the IV, DV, and the research design.

Dependent variable
- What behavior will you measure?
- How often will you measure the behavior?
- What type of observation?
- What is the recording method? How will you record data?

Independent variable
- What are you going to manipulate?
- Describe the levels of the IV
- What variables will be controlled?
- How are they presented?
- How long are they presented?
- What instructions will the participants receive?
- Who will give the instructions?

Method
Here you should discuss how you are going to meet the goals of the introduction. The sections of the method section may be found below.

Participants
- Who are your participants going to be? (gender, age, education, race, etc)
- How many participants will you have? (remember, power analysis)
- How are you going to recruit them?
- How will you assign them to groups?
- How will you compensate them?
What criteria will you use for participation?

Materials
What materials will you use?
Are you going to administer any psychological tests? If so, which ones?
Are there any special supplies needed?
Do you need an apparatus to measure behavior?

Procedure
What is your research design?
What will happen in your experiment?
Where will your study take place?
DETAILS!!!

Projected Results
What data will be collected?
How will data be summarized (which descriptive stats will you use)?
What inferential stats will you use?
What will the significance level be?

Implications
What will be the implications if the results of your hypothesis are supported?
What will be the implications of the results if your hypothesis is not supported?

References
In APA format

IRB proposal