Psychological Experiment Analysis

1. **Title Page**
   Not all lab reports have title pages, but if your instructor wants one, it would be a single page that states:
   - The title of the experiment.
   - The psychologist(s) performing the experiment.
   - Your name and the names of any lab partners.
   - Your instructor's name.
   - The date the lab was performed or the date the report was submitted.
2. **Introduction / Purpose**
   Usually the Introduction is one paragraph that explains the objectives or purpose of the lab. In one sentence, state the hypothesis. Sometimes an introduction may contain background information, briefly summarize how the experiment was performed, state the findings of the experiment, and list the conclusions of the investigation. Even if you don't write a whole introduction, you need to state the purpose of the experiment, or why you did it. This would be where you state your hypothesis.

   If _____, then_____, because_____.
   Ind. Var. Dep. Var.
   The independent variable(s) is what is being changed during the course of the experiment.
   The dependent variable(s) is what is being measured during the experiment.

3. **Materials**
   List everything needed to complete the experiment.
4. **Methods**
   Describe the steps completed during the investigation. This is the procedure. Be sufficiently detailed that anyone could read this section and duplicate the experiment. Write it as if you were giving direction for someone else to do the lab. It may be helpful to provide a Figure to diagram the experimental setup.
5. **Data (if applicable)**
   Numerical data obtained from the procedure usually is presented as a table. Data encompasses what you recorded when you conducted the experiment. It's just the facts, not any interpretation of what they mean.
6. **Results**
   Describe in words what the data means. Sometimes the Results section is combined with the Discussion (Results & Discussion).
7. **Discussion or Analysis**
   The Data section contains numbers. The Analysis section contains any calculations you made based on those numbers. This is where you interpret the data and determine whether or not a hypothesis was accepted. This is also where you would discuss any mistakes you might have made while conducting the investigation. You may wish to describe ways the study might have been improved.
8. **Conclusions**
   Most of the time the conclusion is a single paragraph that sums up what happened in the experiment, whether the hypothesis was accepted or rejected, and what this means.
9. **References**
   If your research was based on someone else's work or if you cited facts that require documentation, then you should list these references.