

Scientific Writing: Results vs. Discussion

	Results Section	Discussion Section
Description	A factual record of data, results, and observations.	An analysis/ interpretation of the data, results, and observations.
Function	Tells us what you discovered. Indicates the relevant data.	Tells us what your discoveries mean/ signify. Makes use of the relevant data.
Appearance	Combination of text and graphs/ illustrations.	Almost exclusively text (although you can refer to graphs and illustrations).
Example	<p>Just over <u>70% of respondents agreed</u> with the statement that ‘Reducing the use of antibiotics in my dairy herd over the next year would be a good thing to do’ with only <u>6% disagreeing</u> with it. Around <u>58% agreed</u> that ‘People I respect in the industry would approve of my reducing the use of antibiotics in my herd over the next year’. Nearly <u>59% of respondents said</u> they had the skills and knowledge needed to reduce antibiotic use in their herds in future, whilst <u>39% were not sure</u>. Almost <u>32% agreed</u> that ‘Reducing the use of antibiotics in my dairy herd over the next year would be difficult to achieve’ but <u>19% disagreed</u> with this statement and the remaining <u>49% were not sure</u>. <u>Table 4 shows</u> why farmers thought it would be good to reduce antibiotic usage in their herd.</p>	<p>As almost 70% of respondents believed that their veterinarians would approve of them reducing future antibiotic usage, <u>this strongly suggests that</u> there is a positive advisory environment to achieving this goal. However, <u>this should not be taken to mean</u> that veterinarians, as the key advisory source, were necessarily advising this course of action. <u>There was a clear suggestion that</u> around half of all respondents had either recently reduced their level of antibiotic usage, or were planning to do so. Whilst <u>the reasons behind this</u> were not elicited directly, <u>some assumptions can be made based on respondents’ beliefs and attitudes</u> towards antibiotic usage. Whether such reduction was circumstantial or planned, is not clear. Nevertheless, before accepting this statistic as final, some thought should be given to the issue of the ‘value action gap’. <u>The Theory of Reasoned Action</u> states that behaviors are shaped by attitudes towards those behaviors, subject to social norms (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975). On this basis, attitudes towards reducing antibiotics and stated intention use should be <u>a good indicator of</u> actual buying practice.</p>
	<p>Jones, P.J. et al. “Factors affecting dairy farmers’ attitudes towards antimicrobial medicine usage in cattle in England and Wales”, <i>Preventive Veterinary Medicine</i>, no. 121, 2015, pp. 30-40.</p>	