# Preparing for the Internal Assessment: ANALYSIS section

*The Psych IA is explained in the OUP textbook, p488-512. Read p497-509 for details about Analysis. Please read for what you need – not all info is relevant to your IA. Please also use the Course site ‘IA’ page for overviews, examples and clips of how to select your descriptive statistics.*

*The Analysis section is where you report your mathematical findings.*

Writing your ANALYSIS: what to include

1. **Descriptive** 🡪 which measure of central tendency did you choose?
   1. Mean or median; this depends on your data set. Assess your data sets and decide if it makes more sense to calculate mean (average) or median (middle value).
   2. See Pro Tip below
2. **Descriptive** 🡪state the measure of dispersion
   1. If you found it was suitable to calculate mean, use standard deviation (how far from the mean value your data points are).
   2. If you found it suitable to look at median, you will look at semi interquartile range
   3. The ‘how to’: use worked examples, clips, handouts to help you. It only takes a minute or so to calculate descriptive stats – the work comes with trying to interpret meaning from them.
3. Displaying descriptive stats: a simple table is fine. Label it and refer to it; have clear titles that reflect your two conditions.
4. Graphing data: to display differences between two groups, often a simple bar chart is most appropriate to illustrate difference, especially in recall differences. Ensure your visual has a title that reflects the intention of your hypothesis ie: Graph 1: **A comparison of mean recall of words for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** 
   1. Ensure your x/y axes are labeled clearly & simply:
   2. Include a statement of result.
      1. Point your reader to your visual: ‘As illustrated in Graph 1, it seems that …..(refer to the results of your two groups. State any points of interest you can see in trend. This is the place to state results, not interpret them.
5. **Inferential:**
   1. State the test you used (remember to cite the test in Works Cited)
   2. State why you’ve used the test (test of difference between two groups, appropriate for ordinal data and independent measures)
   3. State the finding (use the wording from the practice activity we did)
   4. Accept your research hypothesis OR retain (hang on to) the null hypothesis
   5. Statement of synthesis: “This finding suggest that the presence of a title leads to higher recall on a word recognition test.”

Pro Tip:

As much as possible, briefly justify WHY you chose the measure you did. For example, you might mention that the data set is quite evenly spread (ie: participants in Condition 1 remembered 8,7,8,3,5,4,8,3,5,6,3 items and no outliers impact the mean value.)