Running head: DRIVING HABITS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

Gender Differences: Driving Habits Between Men and Women

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Please note that all information provided in this sample paper was fabricated in Quetzalcóatl’s mind. The purpose of this short paper is to provide a guide on how to write an APA paper. Ultimately, the student should and must consult the APA manual (5th edition) in writing the manuscript.
Abstract

In this section you want to summarize your full study (sort of a mini paper: 80-120 WORDS). Abstract is usually written after you finish the paper.

1. Question of interest?
2. Hypothesis?
3. Method?
4. results?
5. conclusions?

This paper examined the question of driving habits between men and women. That is, are there differences regarding driving behavior and gender? In other words, are men more likely than women to run red lights? There is a general consensus that men are more likely to drive faster than women. Indeed, some evidence supports this hypothesis. For example, men are more likely to receive speeding citations than women. Moreover, statistics show that men are more likely to be involved in an accident than women. To test this hypothesis, we employed a naturalistic observation.

**Briefly:** Describe methods

**Results:** Did the results support your hypothesis?

**Conclusion:** Briefly, how are you going to explain your results

Results were explained in terms of the theory of gender differences.
Gender Differences: Driving Habits Between Men and Women

**State the purpose of your study immediately:**

This paper examined the question of driving habits between men and women.

**Question of Interest:**

Are there differences regarding driving behavior and gender? More specifically, are men more likely than women to exhibit aggressive behavior, such as running red lights?

**Some hypothesis based on common perceptions or may based on some literature that you read.**

There is a general consensus that men are more likely to drive faster than women. Some evidence supports this hypothesis. For example, men are more likely to receive speeding citations than women. Moreover, statistics show that men are more likely to be involved in accidents than women. In fact, Doe (1998) suggested that men are 80% more likely than women to go to jail for a driving related incident than women.

**Motivation, why are you doing this study? Provide some theory as to why it is important to look for gender differences?**

**Provide background, summarize the literature and summarize the research or studies that you are criticizing.**

Previous research has addressed this issue, however, there are some methodological problems that we believe need to be addressed. Most studies addressing this issue have been based on estimations and computer simulations. Therefore, we believe that in order to provide new insights into the differences in gender driving habits, an ?ecologically valid? study must be carried out.

**Describe your general technique:**

To test this interesting hypothesis, we employed a naturalistic observation. This technique consists on observing the behavior as it occurs. This particular technique has been used successfully in previous research...

**Make some predictions: What do you expect to find and why?**

It appears that the issue of whether men are more or less "better drivers"
than women is an open question, and the present study seeks to further investigate this issue with driving habits between men and women. Are women better drivers than women? If it is true that men are more thriller seekers than women, than we expect men to run out more red lights than women.

Three sites were chosen. These sites were chosen based on local police records indicating high number of traffic citations in these specific areas. The observations took place in the morning, the afternoon and the evening.

**Method**

**Participants**

How many participants did you use?  
Where did you get them?  
Did you pay them?

Fifty-six students participated in the study. Students were from the Texas A & M International University. They were randomly selected based on the time and hour in which the study took place. Participants were unaware that they were part of observational study.

**Materials**

A tape recorder and a stop watch were utilized. It was necessary to utilize a speed radar detector. The speed radar detector was a Sony 1300 Model. Binoculars were used too.

**Procedure**

The procedure was similar to the one used by Smith (1997). Based on police records, three areas were chosen to observer drivers of both genders. These areas were designated as "high ticket" areas by city and police officials. Mornings (from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM) and afternoons (from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM) were chosen. The study took one month to complete. Observations were counterbalanced in the following way: During the first week, observations took place during the mornings. During the second week, observations took place during the afternoons and so on. In the first week, observations took place Mondays, and Wednesdays. In the second week, observations took place Tuesday and Thursday. The opposite was true for week three and four.

Two experienced researchers participated in the study. Upon the approximation of a certain car, one researcher took note of the gender of the
Driving Habits

driver. The other researcher took note of whether the driver ran the red light or not. Drivers running yellow lights were included as part of the category "running lights" because of the suggestion by the Texas Department of Transportation that running yellow lights constituted a moving violation. It should be noted that it was relatively easy to determine the gender of the driver. A pilot study showed that binoculars helped to identify the gender of the driver being observed. Also, our procedure proved to be very reliable and car drivers did not realize that they were being observed.

Results

Did you observe some interesting trends? Eyeball it! Also did you notice other interesting behaviors?

Report your results in terms of percentages or proportions. Do not say something like: 40 men and 10 women ran a yellow light.

Over all, our results showed that in general, 80% of the drivers running a red/yellow light were men compared to 10% of women. These differences were statistically significant by an independent t-test, \( t(56) = 5.0, p < .0001 \).

Because of the surprising results, we wanted to corroborate our results with the information obtained by the police department of the numbers of tickets given during the last two months.

Based on the information given to us by the Texas Department of Transportation, we were able to obtain the gender and age of the drivers getting a ticket. Out of 1000 tickets that we obtained, again, 70% of the people getting tickets were men and about 30% women. Also we were able to see the number of tickets given per day and for the time of day. Overall, most of the citations (80%) in one day were given to men and only 10% given to women. There was no correlation \( r = 0 \) between time and day and Gender. Table 1 or Figures (**make sure that you include a table or a Figure**) summarizes differences between genders and time of day. As you can see from the table, there is a slight decrease of women running red lights from the morning to the afternoon. In contrast, there is an increase in men running red lights from the morning to the afternoon.

Another way to summarize your results is to do a table or a graph.

**If you are going to use tables, please make sure that you tell the reader that you are using a table (make reference to it) and don't let the reader figure it out. **table goes in appendix
Table 1
Proportion of Men and Women Running a Red Light as a Function of Time Of Day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Time of day</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

State whether your results supported your original hypothesis. The purpose of the present study was to find out differences in driving habits between gender. Our original hypothesis was that...... And our results, indeed, supported our hypothesis.

Get theoretical and come up wit some explanation as to why you think you obtained these results. Your chance to be creative.

Your Chance to Criticize Other Research...

Unlike previous research, the present results show for the first time, unequivocally, that gender differences are psychologically real. A review of the literature suggests that previous studies were confounded.

Are there any weaknesses of your study?

Usually it is not a good idea to point out your own weakness, but for this assignment try to point out your own weaknesses on how you could improve your paper. Also, if you did not obtain the expected results, explain why you think you did not get the results you expected.
References
