Figures

Tables and figures are used to display complex data in academic papers: tables and figures should *not* be used to display data that could be summarized in a few sentences. Each table or figure should be clearly drawn and easy to interpret, and should contain enough information that its contents can be understood without reference to the text. The text should be used to draw attention to extremes, trends, and other key features of the data, rather than simply repeating data the table or figure provides.

When tables and figures are required for an assignment:

- Number tables and figures separately and sequentially (Table 1, Table 2… and Figure 1, Figure 2…)
- Guide the reader to the appropriate table or figure by introducing it in the text
    - Minimum wage has increased since 2007 (Table 1).
    - Figure 3 demonstrates that…

Figures

Figures are visual displays of data such as photographs, illustrations, maps, or graphs. All types of figures should have captions (labels) that:

- Appear *below* the figure
- Include a figure number and informative title
- Provide any additional details necessary for understanding the data, such as:
    - A brief description
    - Explanations of any abbreviations
    - Citations for any non-original data

Graphs are used to make comparisons, show trends, or reveal relationships in the data. The type of graph used depends on the nature of the data, but in general:

- Axes must clearly labeled
- Units should be given in the axis label, not the scale
- A legend or key must be included if multiple data sets are shown
- Colour should only be used for complex graphs that can't be understood in black and white

Examples in APA format shown on page 2.

Figures

Bar graphs are used to compare independent values.

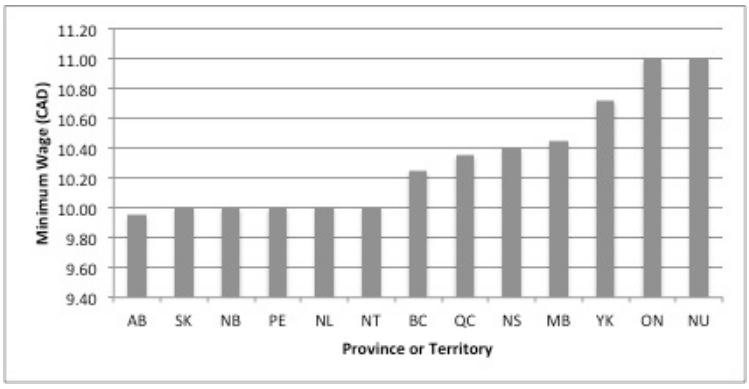

Figure 1. Comparison of Canadian minimum wages in 2014. Data from www.retailcouncil.org.

Line graphs show the relationship between two variables.

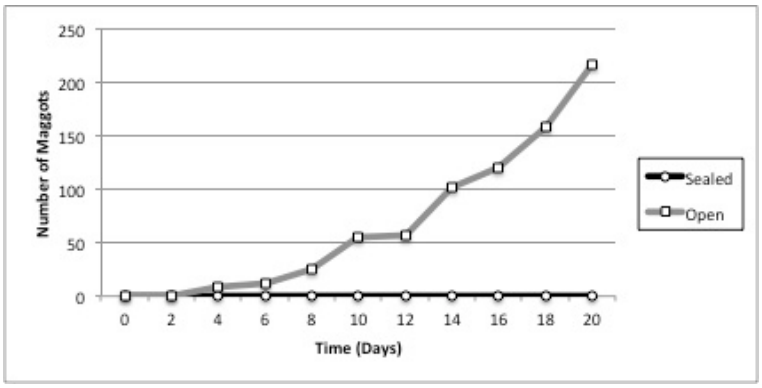

Figure 2. Number of maggots observed on steak samples contained in sealed or open jars.

Pie charts compare proportions of a total.

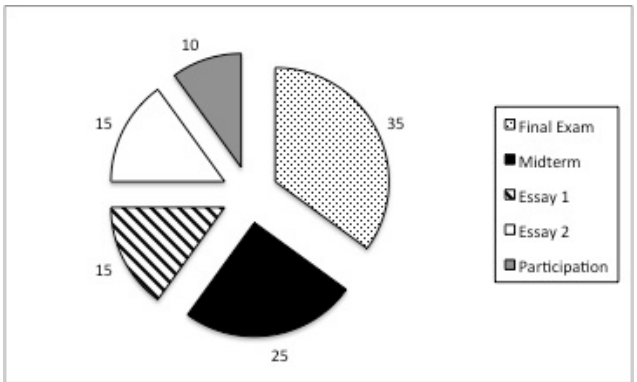

Figure 3. Contribution of course work to final grade (%).