Before you begin writing the Methods and Results section for the little finger data, you will need to read a few of the chapters from K. Knisely handbook for writing.

Chapter 3 – Reading and Writing Scientific Paper (pp. 17 – 25)
Chapter 4 – Step-by-Step Instructions… (pp. 27 – 53) for the Methods & Results sections
Chapter 6 – A “Good” Sample Student Laboratory Report (pp. 79 – 88)

Clarity and wordiness – p. 81

It would be a good idea to pull a scientific article from a reputable journal. Keep in mind that many journals will have specific instruction to the authors regarding their particular formatting. Look for journal articles that have the obvious: Abstract, Introduction, Methods & Materials, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited sections in the paper. If you need to see one, please ask.

Methods & Materials: (pp. 32 – 34)
When you begin writing laboratory reports, it’s easiest to begin with the Methods and Materials section. This section does not require as much “thought” because you have already done everything. In this section, you will discuss what, where and how you conducted your experiment. Also include your sample size, the specific organism(s) that you worked with and the statistical analysis used and the p-value for statistical significance. You will need to include the materials used (general how you did your experiment or collected the data); however, the materials are not a grocery list of items. Since you have already conducted the experiment, this section is written in past tense. You do not need to include every single detail; however, you must have enough information so that the read can repeat your experiment. Use passive voice for the writing of this section

You should have a Methods & Materials heading followed by the written methods (pp. 81 – 83).

Results: (pp. 34 – 38)
In this section, you will be reporting pertinent results. Do not discuss or interpret your results, just report them. This is where you will include your tables (if numbers are important and it is needed – not this case) and graphs (for trends). Do not report raw data, report means ± SD or SE. Do not forget the associated units.

You should have a Results heading followed by the written results (pp. 83 – 85). Do not write a sentence telling the reader to look at a table or a figure for your results. Tables and figures must be referenced in the body of the paper as well. Tables are tables, not figures. Figures include photos, graphs, etc.

Your assignment is to actually write the Methods and Results section of a scientific paper.
Here’s the hypothesis: Biology laboratory male students are taller than female students.
Methods Section: Tell me what you did, how you did it, when you did it, etc.
Results Section:
• You have already run a t-test and constructed a figure on the class data set. Write the written portion for this section on the class height data, including the figure illustrating the results. Do not forget to write the figure caption and reference it.
Use your writing guide to assist you. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Email if you have any questions.