

Reading Research: Article Anatomy

Components of a Research Article

1. Title

A well-constructed title will summarize the main ideas of the study; subtitles may be used to provide context, qualify scope, identify a methodology, etc.

2. Authors

Articles may provide additional author information beyond names, including institutional affiliations and contact information

3. Publication Information

Source information, including journal title, date, issue, number, doi, etc.

4. Abstract

A paragraph summary of the research question and findings.

5. Introduction

States the reason for the research and context for the study: What did the authors set out to learn? What do we already know? Who has done similar research already?

6. Literature Review

An examination of major theories related to the topic and all relevant past research. In some research articles, this component may be incorporated into the Introduction.

7. Methods or Methodology

Describes the research population ("Study Sample"), method used to gather information ("Data Collection"), and means used for measuring ("Measures")

8. Results

A summary of the data gathered by the experiment, usually including a combination of text, charts, graphs and tables. This section will present results but not discuss their significance.

9. Discussion/Conclusion

Analysis of the findings and an explanation of the significance of the research including relations to previous research, aberrant results and implications. "Conclusion" may be presented as a separate component.

10. References/Bibliography

An alphabetized list of all the academic sources used in the paper. The format of the references will match the format and style used in the paper (APA, MLA, etc.)