Research Articles:

What They Are and Their Format

What is a Research Article?
A research article is a journal article in which researchers present the results of an original research project, experiment or study. Usually this type of article is written by more than one person, since it typically requires a team to design, carry out, and analyze the data from such a research project. This type of article is then published in a journal devoted to the particular field in which the research was performed.

The parts of a research article are:

Abstract: Summarizes the article’s contents. This is written by the author(s) of the article.

Introduction: Orients the reader. This will tell the reader why the authors performed their particular research. The introduction usually begins with a literature review, which summarizes the current state of research on the topic. The introduction does not receive a heading.

Method: Tells the reader how the research was conducted. This section may be subdivided into subsections describing Materials, Apparatus, Subjects, Design, and Procedures.

Results: Summarizes the data collected. It is this data that proves the point of the author(s), not the sources cited in the bibliography.

Discussion: The authors explain how the data fits their original hypothesis, state their conclusions, and look at the theoretical and practical implications of their research.

References: Lists the complete bibliography of sources cited in the research article.

Sometimes different but synonymous words are used to head the various sections, but regardless of how the sections are headed, every research article will contain the sections listed above.

Author Credentials & Affiliations

Credentials for the authors are usually given after their names where they appear at the beginning of the article, and their affiliations are given in a paragraph located either at the bottom of the first page or at the end.

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