

Structure of a Research Article

TITLE: Create a clear and concise title that allows readers to get a gist of the focus of your article. Consider adding 1-2 keywords in your title to enhance chances of search engine discoverability

Abstract

The abstract is a self-contained summary of your article. The abstract should include context (general statement of what is being written about), gap/research question (what gap in research your article will address and what this research is attempting to answer), participants (identify who was involved in the study), methodology (indicate methods used to conduct study and specific information gathered), and results/conclusion (specify what the main findings were and conclusions drawn).

Keywords: Identify three to five keywords associated with this article (*tip: use nouns*). This should be one paragraph (100-300 words).

Introduction

Introduce readers to the context necessary to understand the focus and purpose of the research. Explain the research that already exists in this area with citations (generally no older than 5 years) to then lead readers to the gap that exists. Identify the problem the research attempts to solve. Identify briefly the approach and possible outcomes. (Remember that the introduction incorporates general information; the body of the work is where you get into the details).

Methods and Materials

Here you want to explain how the problem was investigated. This portion will be analyzed by the peer reviewers in-depth to determine if the most appropriate research methodology/technique was used, so describe the essential steps to how you tested this problem/your question. Here include:

1. You want to justify the methodology chosen – so start by redefining your research question/scope (general recap – different words than used prior)
2. Explain the design or method of your research – what type of data are you acquiring and how did you specifically do this?
3. Incorporate a rationale - why did you choose this specific method? Justify why this would bring about the best results
4. Briefly describe the shortcomings of your work and explain how these limitations have impacted your research findings. Be honest and clear here.

Results

Here you are answering: what did you find in your research? This section should be arranged in a logical sequence, without bias or interpretation (*please note:* write this in past tense; this is **not** where you **interpret** your results - state your findings objectively). Here include:

1. Summary of key findings (do this in a logical progression - consider the steps you outlined in your methodology section)

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2. Use figures/charts/images here to help readers visualize key aspects of the data (if you do incorporate these, always introduce the addition and explain the key points from the addition. Do not make your readers determine the main components of said data.
3. Highlight the results that are relevant to the question posed only (not all of the data may be relevant or necessary to explain – keep it focused and clear)

Discussion/Implications

This is where you will interpret your results. Refer to the research questions or hypotheses you posed and the literature you reviewed (but keep this focused – you are interpreting the results to answer your question after considering the findings from your study. What you are **not** doing is introducing new results). It is important you include citation support from previous research to compare your results with those from other studies. Here include:

1. Analysis of the data
2. Identify conclusions you have drawn (compare with previous studies)
3. Suggest future potential for additional studies or work

Conclusion

Synthesize key points (generally, no more than one to two paragraphs). Explain to readers here why your research should matter. (*Please note:* do **not** repeat what was discussed in the results or discussion section, but state in clear, simple language why your research should matter).

Acknowledgement

You may include this should you wish to acknowledge certain individuals who contributed to this article or if you have conflicts of interest to disclose.

References

Incorporate all external sources used in the creation of this article in APA 7th edition. For examples, see [References Resource](#).