

Parts of a Research Article

Scholarly research articles differ from regular magazine articles and contain standard elements or sections. These elements may be called by different names, appear in a different order, or be grouped together in different ways. It is important to understand these elements to effectively read the article.

Title and author information

The title of the article, the authors' names, and the authors' addresses are usually the first prominent parts of the article. The authors' addresses are provided to show their affiliation with a particular research institution and allow other scientists to contact them regarding their research. One author may be indicated as the one to whom correspondence concerning the article should be addressed.

Abstract

The abstract is a paragraph summarizing the content of the article. It usually appears at the beginning of the article. You may want to read the abstract first to see if the article will be useful to your research.

Introduction

The introduction presents the research question being asked. It explains the context of the research and often discusses previous work that was done on the topic.

Methods

The Methods section (sometimes called **Materials and Methods**, or **Methodology**) discusses how the research was conducted. It explains what materials were used and what procedures were followed to perform an experiment or field study.

Results

The results of the research are presented in this section. They are often presented in a table or chart format and show statistical calculations performed on the data.

Discussion

In the discussion section (sometimes followed by a separate section called **Conclusions**), the authors explain how the results of their research have addressed their research question. They may suggest where further research is needed.

References

The references section presents publications that were cited by the author in his work. Read the articles the author has cited to find out more about your topic.