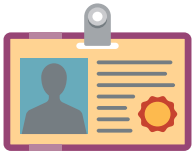


Scientific journal articles share a common anatomy, or structure. Each part of an article serves a purpose, and if you know the purpose, you can become more efficient at reading and understanding articles. Instead of reading from beginning to end, consult targeted sections according to the kind of information you need to learn at your stage of the writing process. You will save time and find better sources because the search itself becomes easier.



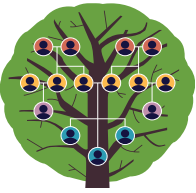
## Title and Author

- Tells you what the article is about (topic, variables, population, etc.)
- “The face” of the article
- Identifies who did the work and where they work



## Abstract

- Summary of the article
- “Takes the pulse” of the article so you can decide whether to read more
- Always free, easy to find



## Introduction

- Provides background and context
- Shows the “family tree” of knowledge about the paper topic
- Poses research question
- Justifies significance of study



## Method

- Provides step-by-step directions (“map” of the study)
- Describes who was in the study (participants) and what they did (materials and procedures)



## Results

- What the study found (the “rabbit in the magic hat”)
- Usually includes statistics
- Often incorporates tables and figures
- Answers the research question



## Discussion

- Key study “takeaways” or conclusions
- Interprets results
- States strengths and limitations
- Explores real-world implications
- Identifies areas for future research



## Tables and Figures

- Visual representations of data (“charts and bars”)
- Often show demographic data and differences between groups
- Summarize methods and results



## Reference List

- Identifies all sources cited in the text (the “DNA” of the knowledge in the paper) and helps you get them
- Credits and acknowledges others’ work so plagiarism is avoided