Anatomy of a Research Article

With possible exceptions, research articles contain the following elements, which may or may not be labeled separately.

Title

Author(s) – name of author(s) and institutional affiliations will be listed, sometimes with contact information

Abstract – short summary of the article

Introduction – states the reason for the research; may include a literature review and/or discussion of previous research

Methodology – explains how the research was conducted, including description of the research population or study sample, methods used to gather information or data, and means used for measuring or analysis

Results – gives results of the study, often using charts, tables, or other graphics to present findings

Discussion – analyzes the findings and explains the significance of the research and possible implications; may suggest applications or future projects

References – a bibliography or list of works cited in the article