Structure of the scientific paper

Research paper: Structure is everything

Introduction Method Results And Discussion What did I want to do? How did I do it? What did I find?

What might it mean?

Title – Definition

A highly condensed version of your abstract

Irreducible number of terms needed to accurately describe the content of the paper



Indicative

Maintenance treatment of major depression in old age: randomized controlled trial

Informative

Two-year mainenance therapy with paroxetine prevents recurrent depression in old age: randomized control trial

Abstract

Classical form

Structured

Aim Method Results Conclusions

Objective Setting Participants Design Intervention Main outcome measures Results Conclusions

Structure of a scientific article: Introduction

Go from the general, broad context of your work, to tell the reader what is already known, to what is not yet known, to what the problems are and to what you have decided to do

Structure of a scientific article: Methods

- Like a recipe
- For informed readers this is the most important section
- Describe how subjects were selected and excluded
- Don't describe standard methods in detail use references
- Statistics
- Ethics

Structure of a scientific article: Results

Figures and Tables should:

- Add information
- Save space
- Be self-explanatory
- Not be overloaded with numbers or ink

Structure of a scientific article: Discussion

After summarizing your results, identify limitations and biases, compare and contrast them with previous findings and discuss theoretical and practical implications of your own; give suggestions for future research; show what is new and how your results fit into the broad field described at the beginning of the Introduction.