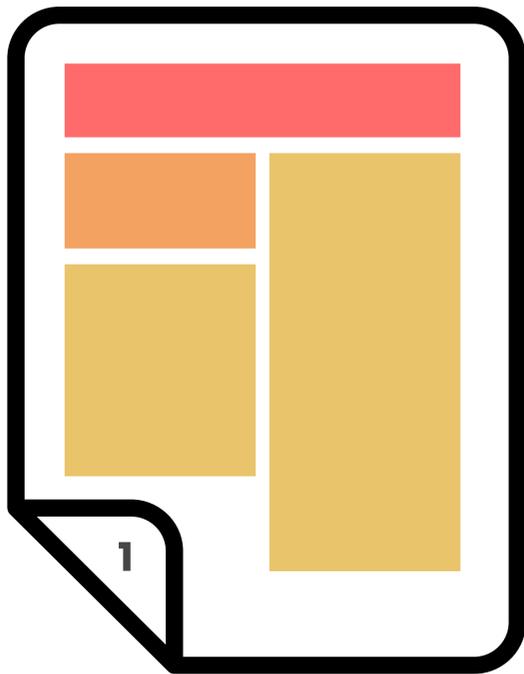


# ANATOMY OF A RESEARCH ARTICLE

Research articles in the sciences and social sciences tend to be concise reports of results from quantitative and/or qualitative analysis. Focus on the discussion of results, methods, and limitations.



**Article information:** This includes the title of the article and the authors. You can usually find information about the publisher here too, like the journal name, volume, and issue number.

**Abstract:** A brief summary of the article that helps readers determine if its relevant to their interests. It sometimes follows the overall structure of the article with 1-2 sentences for the Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

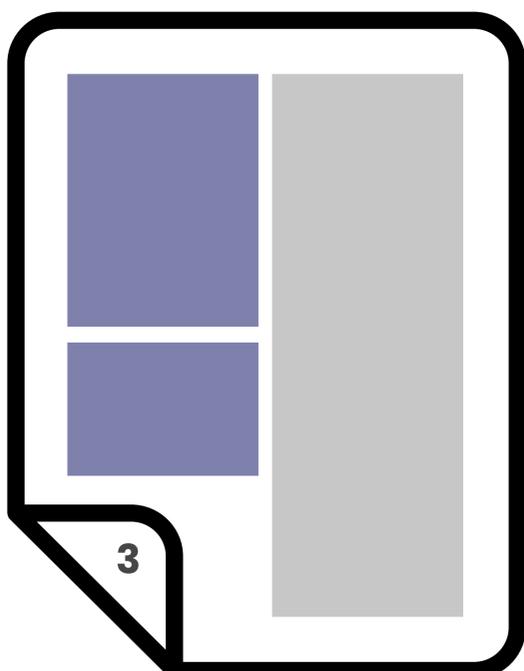
**Introduction or literature review:** Establishes the background of the topic, definitions of terms, and why the topic is important to study. Includes research questions or hypotheses, and references to previous studies.



**Methods:** Explains how the study was conducted so other researchers can replicate it. Includes population or sample size, tests and measures used to gather and analyze the data.

**Results:** The outcome of the study, usually just raw data. Results may be represented in figures or text, and include tables, charts, and graphs, and summary. There is little to no interpretation of what the data means or says about the topic.

**Discussion:** Summarizes the results in more detail and may compare results to previous studies. Talks about the implications of the study, what should come next, and what future research might investigate based on the results. A conclusion may address gaps or limitations in the methods.



**References:** A complete list of sources used by the authors, usually organized by authors last name or numbered in the order they appeared in the article. A great place to find relevant studies that you can use too!