article structures

10

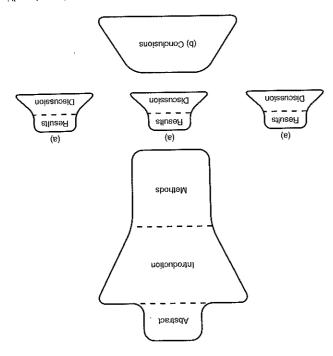
Introduction

(a) The Methods section, often renamed Procedure
or Experimental, is presented after the
Discussion, sometimes in a smaller type face
than the rest of the paper.

(b) This change means that more details may
need to be given in the Results section to
explain how the results were obtained.

Fig. 2.2 AIRDaM (Abstract, Introduction, Results, Discussion, and Methods and materials): a structure variation that occurs in articles in some journals with a focus on molecular biology.

(s) Methods



(a) The Results and Discussion are presented together in a single combined section; each result is presented, followed immediately by the relevant discussion.

(b) This change means that a separate section is needed at the end to bring the different pieces of discussion together; it is often headed Conclusions.

Fig. 2.3 AIM(RaD)C (Abstract, Introduction, Materials and methods, repeated Results and Discussion, Conclusions): a structure variation that is permitted in some journals, usually for shorter articles.

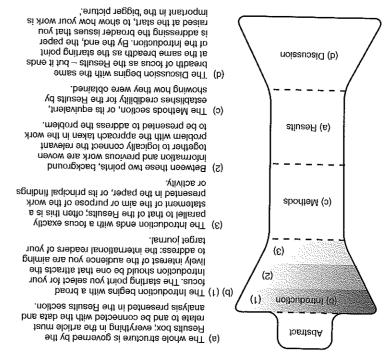


Fig. 2.1 AIMRaD: the hourglass "shape" of a generic scientific research article and key features highlighted by this shape.

diagram (Figure 2.1) commonly used to represent the structure of an AIMRaD article, and what it can tell us about English-language research articles. In this diagram, it is the width and shape of the segments, rather than their depth, that tell us something important about scientific articles.

Here we represent an experimental article in terms of different component shapes put together into an hourglass configuration. This enables us to highlight several important features of such articles in a way that is easy to remember. The right-hand part of Figure 2.1 summarizes the features to focus on at this stage.

Task 2.2 Does the diagram match your understanding?

Discuss: Does this hourglass shape also represent the understanding of a research article in your culture or workplace? If not, can you suggest a diagram that shows how your understanding of a research article is different?

Of course, not all scientific research articles follow the simple structure given in Figure 2.1. There are two major variations that we will introduce here; these are presented visually in Figures 2.2 and 2.3. Study these figures now, before doing Task 2.3.

Other research article formats

The highly cited journals Nature (UK) and Science (USA) use variations of the common conventions for their article categories, reflecting the fact that their aim