

SECTION 10

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Introduction

What is an Academic Article?

An academic article is a detailed **research** report **published** in a **scholarly journal**, where **researchers** or scholars **present**:

- Original research
- New theories
- **Case studies**
- **Reviews** of existing **literature**
- Analytical **discussions** on a specific topic within a **field of study**.

Academic articles are also known as **papers** or **research articles**.

Key Features of an Academic Article

- **Peer-reviewed**: Most academic articles are **reviewed** by **experts** before being published.
- **Structured format**: Typically follows **sections** like **Abstract**, **Introduction**, **Methods**, **Results**, **Discussion**, and **Conclusion**.
- **Evidence-based**: Uses data, analysis, and **citations** to support **claims**.
- **Formal tone**: **Objective**, **precise**, and scholarly language.
- **Citations & references**: Takes what others have done and adds something new.

Structure of an Academic Article

The main sections of an academic paper usually follow a standard structure.

Title

The title clearly **states** the topic of the paper. It should be short but **descriptive**.

Abstract

The abstract is a **summary** (usually 150–300 words), which includes the research question, methods, results, and **conclusions**, and helps readers quickly **determine** the paper's **relevance**.

Introduction

The introduction presents the background and **context**, **defines** the problem or research question, and states the paper's purpose—sometimes including the hypothesis. It often ends with a **brief** outline of the paper's structure.

Literature Review

The Literature Review **examines** existing research related to the topic, **identifies gaps** that the paper **addresses**, and explains how your work connects to or adds to what is already known. It can sometimes be included as part of the introduction.

Methodology / Methods

The methodology section describes how the research was **conducted**. It includes detailed information on the **study** design, data collection procedures, and analysis techniques. This section should be detailed and clear enough to allow for **replication** by other researchers.

Results

This section presents the research **findings** without **interpretation**. It is **objective** and **concise**, often supported by tables, **figures**, or **charts** to visually display the data.

Discussion

This section **interprets** the results within the context of the research question and existing literature. It compares the **findings** with previous studies, shows what the results mean in real life, points out limitations, and **suggests** directions for future research.

Conclusion

The conclusion **summarizes** the main results of the research and reminds the reader why the study is important. It **highlights** the main message again and explains how the study could be useful in other areas. Sometimes, this part is included with the Discussion section.

References / Bibliography

This section shows all the sources used in the paper, written in the right citation style.

Optional Sections

- **Acknowledgements:** This section is used to **mention funding** sources, people who helped with the project, or anyone else you'd like to thank.
- **Appendices:** This section includes extra material that supports your paper, such as **raw** data, detailed calculations, or anything too long to include in the main text.