

Research Paper Structure

1. **Title**
2. **Abstract** — summarizing the key parts of the rest of the paper
3. **Introduction**
 1. purpose/reason for study, why it is important
 2. background information on topic/literature review
 3. state research question/goal
4. **Methods** — info on how you conducted the research
 1. hypotheses
 2. data collection+cleaning procedures
 3. analysis method/test (what type of statistical test)
 4. assumptions and how they were checked
5. **Results**
 1. stating the outputs/numerical findings
 2. tables, graphs, other visualizations that represent key numerical findings
 3. could be just the final product (ex. for qualitative)
6. **Conclusions**
 1. interpret the findings in the context of your research question and other key studies/information
 2. sometimes you will compare your results to another study
 3. list drawbacks (limitations) — ex. sample size, lack of research
 4. identify future direction for research
7. **References** - bibliography in whatever format is required (varies according to journal)

Bias

1. *Publication Bias* — published studies don't reflect the entire body of research
 - significant/positive results more likely to be published; "statistically insignificant" results are less likely to be published
2. *Reporting Bias* — a study is published without all of its results
 - focusing on desirable results, omitting unexpected/statistically insignificant results
3. *Confirmation Bias* — researcher consciously/unconsciously looks for and favors results that align with their own beliefs/goals
 - results are amplified or ignored to fit an expectation or belief
 - pervasive in all aspects of life
4. *Recall Bias* — participant misremembers a past event
 - usually isn't on purpose
 - results will be skewed