**ANATOMY of a PRIMARY RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**REFERENCE ENTRY** information including journal, volume, author(s), DOI, and page range is often available at the top of the article. Check database generated entries using the article and an APA guide.

**TITLE**
- Acts as a description of the work
- Tells the reader what the researcher(s) investigated

**ABSTRACT**
- Summarizes the major sections of the article
- Helps readers determine if the article is appropriate for an assignment and/or likely to help them answer their research question(s)

**INTRODUCTION**
- Summarizes the field’s current understanding of the problem being investigated
- Identifies gaps in the current understanding and indicates which these the study tried to fill
- Notes the general approach the author(s) took and gives a rationale for the approach
- Often includes a statement of purpose noting what the researchers hoped to discover
- Sometimes includes a hypothesis identifying what the researchers thought they would find

**METHODS**
- Expands on the general approach identified in the introduction
- Explains how the study was carried out
- FREQUENTLY ANSWERS:
  - Who were the subjects in the study?
  - When and where did the study take place?
  - What occurred during the study?
  - What data was collected?
  - How was data collected?
  - How was the data analyzed?

**RESULTS**
- Reports the findings or results of the study
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REFERENCES
- Lists sources referenced in the article
- Allows readers to learn more about the area of study
- Can be a good place to find related articles

RESULTS continued
- Frequently organized around charts and/or tables
- Indicates the statistical significance or lack of statistical significance of the results

DISCUSSION
- Places the work in context of the broader field
  - Indicates how the results advance, contrast with, or clarify previous ideas
  - Explains whether or not the results are consistent with other studies and/or dominant thinking in the field.
- Explains how the results support or do not support the hypothesis or hypotheses
- Uses the results to provide a clear (if tentative) answer to the research question(s)
- Highlights strengths or unique features of the study
- Indicates limitations or weaknesses in the study design or implementation
- Explains how the results can be applied in the field, often through change in policy or practice
- Suggests areas for further research

CONCLUSION
- Summarizes the major findings of the article
- Sometimes included as the last paragraph of the discussion section