

IMRAD* Structure of a Scientific Article

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The research question• The importance of the study• Begin with a topic sentence (inverted pyramid)• Brief summary of the issue or public health problem• Concise review of pertinent literature• Study approach (one sentence)• What will your article add?• Keep this brief with front-loading
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How you address your study question• Who, what, when, and where• Recipe that others can repeat• Type of study design: describe the intervention• Data sources• Outcomes to be measured• Describe analysis• Statistical tests• Ethical approval
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detail individuals included and excluded• Demographic characteristics of study groups• Results of analyses• Statistical significance, point estimates, and variability (e.g., confidence intervals)• Tables and figures• Consider supplemental digital content for online posting• Report, but do not interpret the results or editorialize
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The point or “so what” of the study• Summary• Compare findings with previous literature• Implications• Limitations: possible problems with the methods used• Recommendation for action• Recommendations for further study• Conclusions