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Scientific Research Paper Schema

Section	Rhetorical Objectives	Principles	Moves
Title	• Attract reader's interest • Accurately represent the subject of the paper • Distinguish your paper from others in the field	• Clarity • Completeness • Succinctness	• Title • Author(s) • Institutional affiliation(s)
Abstract	• Cultivate reader's interest to read your article.	• Concise language • Check journal's style sheet • Avoid citation, abbreviation, table references, or unfamiliar terms • Include key terms • Main findings only • Use overt signal words for moves	(1 sentence for each) • Question/purpose • Experimental approach • Results • Answer to question • Significance • Keywords (3-5)
Introduction	• Persuade your reader that: • There is an "unknown" problem/question	• Synoptic overture • Articulate all of the major arguments of the paper in brief	• Establish importance of topic • Establish "they say" o State of previous research

	• Existing research has not adequately addressed it • Your research can meaningfully address it		o Limitations/gap of previous research • Establish the niche o Problem/unknown o Research question • Author's intervention o Method o Finding (Argument) o Significance
Literature Review	• Justify the claims you have made in the introduction regarding: • "Unknown" • State of existing research • Construct conversation with previous scholarship • Justify your intervention	• Construct a *narrative* about the state of existing research • Organize by concept, not by text • Citation • Agree with a Difference, Disagree, Do Both	• Transition words to connect paragraphs and express relations between ideas • Use appropriate reporting words
Materials and Methods	• Give reader sufficient instructions on how you did your research so that they could repeat your experiment	• Do not include results • All methods must be relevant to results described • Precise language	• Passive voice • Materials • Methods
Results: Figures and Tables	• Tell the story of your research without words	• Choose the appropriate form for displaying your results • Tables=precision • Charts=trends	(Very general) • Move from left to right • Label axes and data clearly

		• Anticipate what your reader expects to see • Develop high-quality figures • Keep it simple • Do not mislead your reader	
Results: Data Commentary	• Draw reader's attention to *particular* aspects of your data and their significance	• Do not simply describe what is already represented in figures • Do not make claims that your data does not support	• Locating statement o Start with the figure o Active ("shows")/passive ("as shown in") o Indicative (topic)/Informative (argument) • Highlighting statement o Points to specific elements of the data – look for trends, correlations of different data • Commentary • Explanation • Interpretation • Significance
Discussion	• Answer the "so what?" question • Persuade your reader that your research is valuable and important	• Must relate to your research question (and *only* your research question). • Summarize and generalize – don't repeat findings • Move from most important to least important (findings, scholarship)	• Answer your research question (revise research question if findings are otherwise) o Repeat key data that supports your answer • Fit in with existing knowledge o Compare with other scholarship • (Optional moves) o Unexpected findings – explain causes o Limitations

			• Implications (So What?)
			o Offers models
			o Prompts hypothesis
			o Application
			o Directions for further study