

In the name of Allah
the compassionate the merciful

Paper Writing

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Characteristics of a scientific article

- 1. Principles:** Compliance with scientific principles.
- 2. Simplicity:** The beauty of a scientific article (unlike **literary** writing) is in its simplicity
- 3. Clarity:** Be very clear and comprehensible to the audience.
- 4. Written order (Vancouver method):**
 - **1. Title; 2. Authors; 3. Abstract;**
 - **4. Introduction; 5. Materials and methods; 6. Findings; 7. Discussion;**
 - **8. Conclusion; 9. Acknowledgments, and 10. Resources.**

Title Page

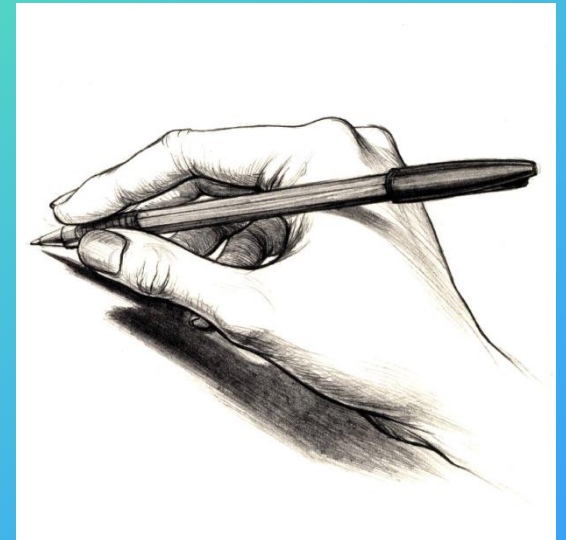
- **Title** (bold font),
- **Authors** name and family,
- **Affiliations**,
- **Running** title,
- **Corresponding author address**,
Email, and Phone, and
- **Conflict** of interest declaration.

Selective Reading

- Title – 100%
- Abstract (first & last lines) – 93%
- Abstract (the rest), References – 60%
- Introduction – 40%
- Methods – 33%
- Results (especially figures, tables)- 27%
- Discussion – 27%

Types of Medical Writing

1. **Editorial**
2. **Letter to Editor**
3. **Scientific or Original Article**
4. **Review Articles**
5. **Meta Analysis**
6. **Case Reports**
7. **Conference Report**
8. **Meeting Abstract**
9. **Personal Views**
10. **Special Communication**
11. **Brief Report or Short Communications**



Types of articles

1. Scientific paper (**Original** article)
2. Review paper (systematic review)
3. Meta Analysis
4. Conference Report
5. Meeting Abstract
6. Case Report
7. Brief Report (Short Communication)
8. Letter to the Editor
9. Editorial
10. Personal Views
11. Special Communication



Original Article Sections

- 1. Title (Title Page)**
- 2. Authors and Affiliations**
- 3. Abstract and Key Words**
- 4. Introduction**
- 5. Materials and Methods**
- 6. Results**
- 7. Discussion**
- 8. Conclusion**
- 9. Acknowledgments**
- 10. References**

Write in what order?

1. **Title**, Authors and Affiliations
2. Materials and **Methods**
3. **Results**
4. **Introduction**
5. **Discussion** and Conclusion
6. Acknowledgements
7. **Abstract** and Key Words
8. References

Title

1. Attention to **type of Research**:

1. Descriptive, Analytical, Experimental, Other

2. Avoid from **redundant and waste words** such as:

1. A study of, A survey of, An investigation on/of, Studies/Investigations on, A research on, ...

3. Avoid from **write study type** such as:

1. report of, a case of, presenting a model, designing a framework, assessment of prevalence, evaluation of the frequency

4. Avoid use of **Abbreviations**

Title

- 1- **Precision**: Its words should be chosen very carefully
- 2- Title **length**: It should not be too short or too long (in both cases it is difficult to understand the topic.)
- 3- Not using **general words**: you should use words that specifically describe the desired content.
- 4- Observance of **grammar**: putting words in proper grammatical order to understand the topic and avoid mistakes

Running Title

- **Title:**
Students' evaluation of teaching effectiveness: A structural modeling approach
- **Running title:**
Students' evaluation of teaching
- **Title:**
Review of the Literature on PBL in the clinical setting
- **Running title:**
PBL in the clinical setting

Authorship

1:  **Contribution** in design, or Data collection, or Analysis

and

2:  **Writing**, Editing, or Criticism of manuscript

and

3:  **Final Approval**

and

4:  **Responsibility**

Authors Order:

According to **role** and participation

- **First** author
 - Design the study
 - Conducting
 - Writes first draft
 - Data collection
 - Partners with last author for subsequent drafts
- **Last** author
 - Experienced investigator who partners with first author in interpretation, analysis, and writing
 - General responsible
 - Senior author or mentor
- **Second** author
 - Major contribution
- **Middle** authors
 - Everyone else who qualifies for authorship
- **Correspond** author: E-Mail, Address

Authors

Authors' names are written in **two ways**:

a) According to the letters of the **alphabet** (Uncommon, mainly used in **England**).

b) Based on their **role** or participation rank in research:

1. Author's **first** name (full or initial);
2. **Last** name;
3. Educational **degree** and
4. Scientific **address**.

Affiliations

- **Place of Affiliations:**

- Footnote or
- under authors name

- **Scientific Rank:**

Professor of Biostatistics

- **Department or Research Center:**

Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center

- **Institute:**

Kermanshah University Of Medical Science, Kermanshah, Iran

- **Email:**

rezaei39@yahoo.com

- **Phone:**

+989183318978

Abstract

- A complete **summary** of the **main parts** of the article
- The same article in **smaller dimensions**
- Most of the readers **read** the abstract after the **title** and refer to the main article if needed, so it is very **important**.
- The abstract is written **after finishing** writing the article, but it must be given at the **beginning** of the article.

Two types Abstracts

- **Descriptive** or indicative:
150 words for **unstructured** abstract (such as Brief Report)
- **Informative**:
250 words for **structured** abstract

Abstract

Questions to be answered here:

1. Why did you **do** the study?
2. How was the study **done**?
3. What did you **find**?
4. Why are these findings **important**?

Abstract

- **Self-contained**
- **Concise**
- **Specific**
- **Active voice**
- **Non evaluative**
- **Coherent**
- **Readable**

Abstract

- **Critical** part of paper
- State main **objective or Purpose** of the study
- Material & **methods**
- Summarize most important **results** (Main **findings**: Data and its significance)
- State major and the principal **conclusions** and its importance
- Avoid **abbreviations**
- Write and **rewrite** until satisfaction

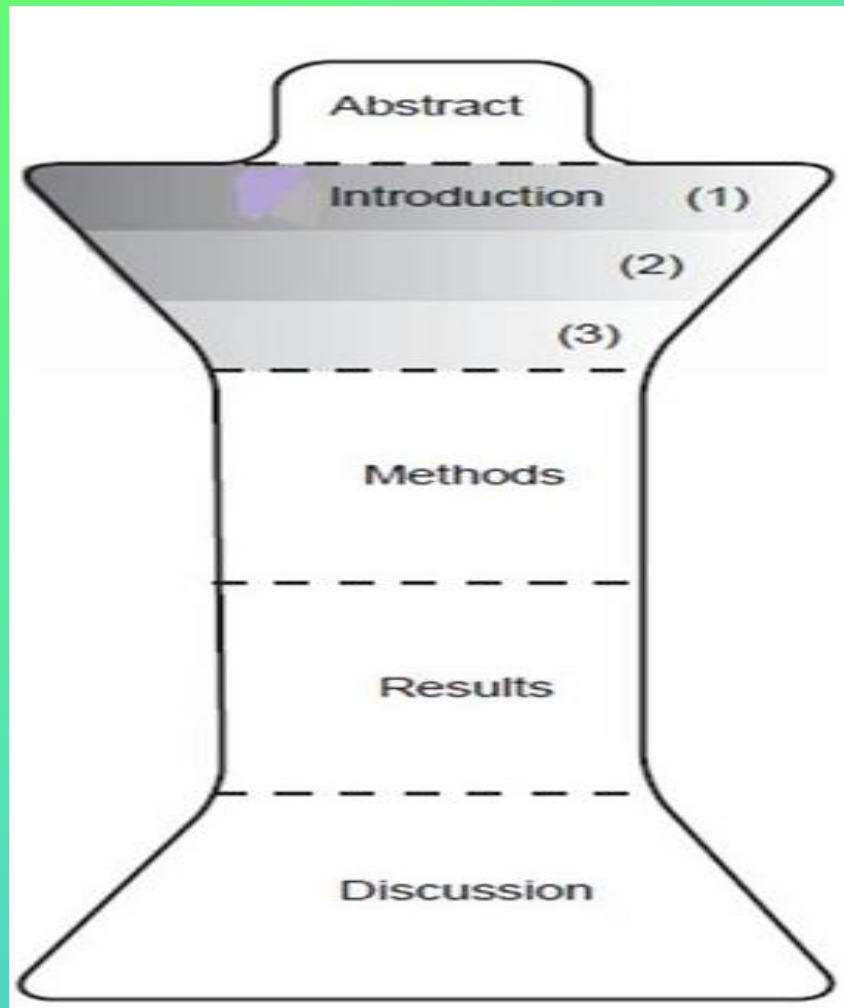
Abstract Characteristics

1. Being **short**: it should not be more than about **250** words,
2. Containing all the contents (**4 main parts**) of the article;
3. Do not use unknown **abbreviations** and synonyms;
4. The terms are **summarized** as much as possible;
5. Verbs are mainly expressed in the **past tense**;
6. Emphasize the **new findings** of the study.
7. There is no need to write a **reference**.
8. At the end, three to five **keywords** are given.

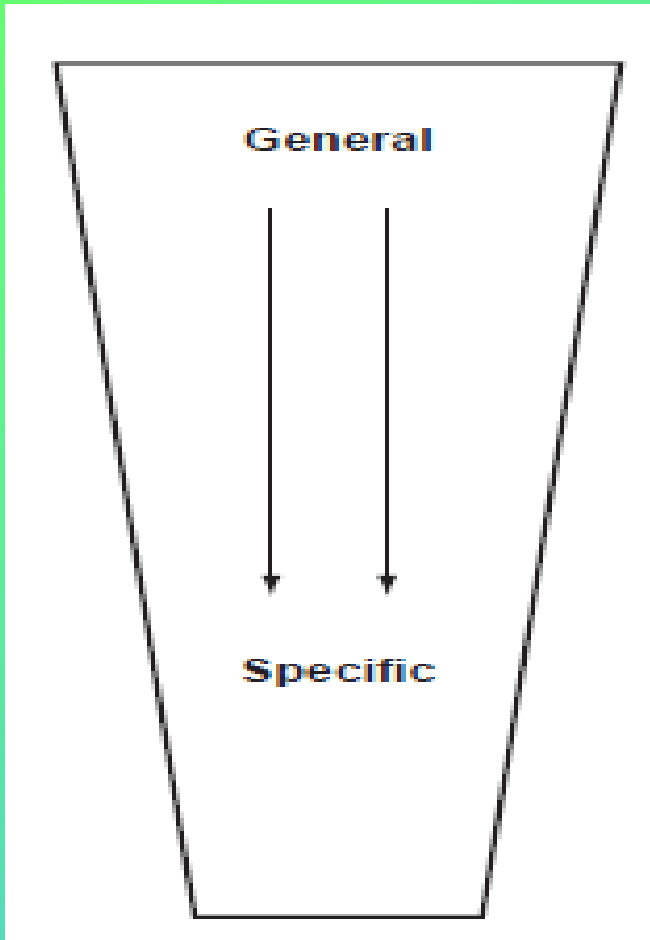
Key words:

- **MeSH**: Medical Subject Headings terms.
- **3-7** Key words
- For **search** and citation

Size of Articles Parts



Introduction



Introduction

Answer to these Questions:

1. What is the **Problem**?
2. Why is it **Important**?
3. What is the **Approach**?
4. What should it **accomplish**?
5. What I **like**?
6. What is the **Gap**?

Introduction

4 short segments:

- Problem statement
 - Does not review field
- Why is it important?
- What is context?
- Purpose of study
 - Sets complete roadmap for paper
 - Followed in order and with same words for rest of paper

Introduction

What reader **reads** (if at all)

- **First** sentence or two
- **Last** sentence or two

Introduction

Evaluation

- Does it **rapidly** tell me where this paper is **headed**?
- Can it be better **focused**?
- Does it make a case for **itself**?
- Are we **talking** people or animals?
- Does the author follow the **map**?

Introduction

- 1) Stating the **topic** or defining the **problem** under investigation clearly;
- 2) A **review** of previous texts and information to create a previous mental background in the reader using **references** that are completely related to the topic;
- 3) Stating the **different methods** of investigating the subject and choosing the researcher's **special method**;
- 4) Mentioning the **important results** of previous investigations;
- 5) Mentioning important **decisions** based on the results of previous studies,

Introduction

- 6) It is necessary to mention **references**.
- 7) It is the best place to **define abbreviations** so that there is no problem if they are used in the next parts of the article;
- 8) Referring to the **necessity** of the study, **innovation** or the **characteristic** of the study,
- 9) Mentioning the **purpose** of the study and its possible **applications**,
- 10) Verbs in the introduction are written in the **present tense**;
- 11) Never write the **findings** of your article in this section.

Materials and methods

- 1- Describe the study design **completely** and with more **details** so that other people can repeat it if needed.
- 2) Verbs are expressed in the **past tense** in most parts of materials and methods.
- 4) **Materials**: Mentioning the **conditions** and reason for choosing work tools, special drugs, and samples for study, **exclusion** entry criteria and **inclusion** exclusion criteria.
- 5) **Methods**: Definition of the community, how to conduct the study and the method of data collection and analyze the data

Materials and methods

- 6- The **type** of study and its design,
- 7- The **data collection** method and its tools,
- 8- Research environment and people **participating** in the study,
- 9- The investigated **variables**,
- 10- Control of **confounders** and avoidance of **bias**,
- 11- **Target** population, **sample** size and sampling method,
- 12- **Ethical** considerations and limitations, and
- 13- Statistical **analysis** methods and software

Materials & Methods

1. How was the study **done**?
 2. Should I **believe** this study?
- For selective, strategic **readers**:
 - **Rarely** read in total if at all
 - For **reviewers**:
 - **Inadequacies** often identified
 - For **science**:
 - Is study **valid**?
 - Is it **replicable**?

Materials and Methods

If patients (for example)

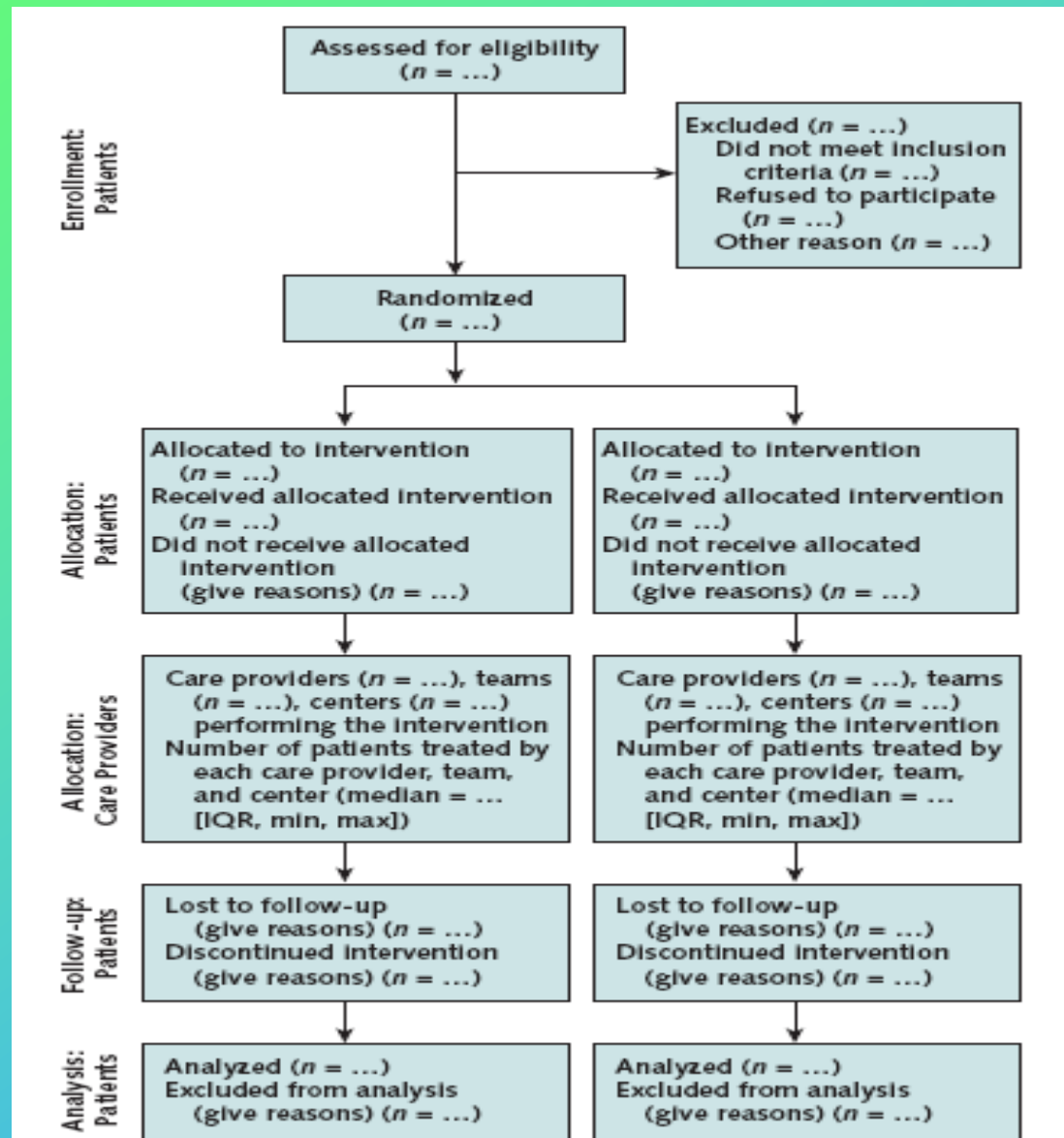
- **What** was done?
- **Where**?
- **Time** frame?
- **Context**?
- Inclusion/exclusion **criteria**?
- **How** many?
- **Characteristics** of patients?

CONSORT Flow Diagram

How was **study group** assembled?

- Base group **included**
- Specific **exclusions**
- **Analysis** group

Example for CONSORT Flow Diagram



Materials and Methods

Data analysis

- Organize according to **purposes** of study
- Provide detail or **references** to technical methodology
- Don't leave **loopholes!**
 - Most common error is not listing **variables** considered in analyses

Materials and Methods

Evaluation

1. A **checklist** is valuable for authors, evaluators, and readers
2. Often **contentious**
 - **Old** methods
 - **Unfamiliar** methods
 - **Complex** methods
3. **Materials:**
 - **Exclusion criteria**
 - **Inclusion criteria**

Materials and Methods

Ethics:

1. When reporting experiments on **human** subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the **responsible committee** on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the **Helsinki Declaration**.

2. When reporting experiments on **animals**, indicate whether the institution's or a national **research council's** guide for, or any **national law** on, the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

Materials and Methods

Statistics:

- a - Describe statistical **methods** with enough **detail** to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results.
- b- **References** for the design of the study and statistical methods should be to **standard works** when possible rather than to papers in which the designs or methods were originally reported.
- c - Specify any general-use **computer programs** used.
- d - Determine the **significant** level.

Findings (Results)

- What did you **find**?
 - (Tables, Charts, Tests, Text)
- Logical **Sequence**
- **Importance** and Accuracy
- Mean (SE or **SD**)
- Median (**IQR**)
- Frequency (%)
- **P-Values** for tests
- Confidence Intervals
- Table and Figure **Characteristics**

Results

- Start with the results that are **easier** to interpret
- Results should be set out in **tables** and **figures**
- Do not **duplicate** illustrations
- Tables and figures must be **straight forward**
- A lot of **numbers**, make Table
- Provide **relevant** statistical **information**
- Do not **repeat** data in the text
- Logical **sequence**: Text, Tables, Figures

Figures

- Choose an **appropriate** chart
- **Informative**
- Axes
 - Minimize tick marks
 - Don't number each tick
- Legend
 - Gives message

Tables

- Well **labeled**
- Not too **complicated**
- **Understood** without text
- No added vertical/horizontal **lines**
- If small, move data to **text**

Results

1. The results is the central **core** of the article.
2. Describes some **characteristics** of the **study** and society (without repeating the details).
3. Showing the **main results** according to the goals.
4. The verbs of the sentences must be in the **past tense**.
5. Findings include **text, tables, graphs** and tests.
6. The **simplicity** and clarity of the results is important;
7. **Charts** and **tables** should be **understandable** and expressive.
8. The number and title of the tables are **above** and for the charts are **below**;
9. If the data is analyzed, it should be determined whether it is **meaningful** or not;
10. The numbers of figures or tables should be given at the **end** of the sentence in the text.

Discussion

- **Interpret results:**
 - Did the study **confirm/deny** the hypothesis?
 - If not, did the results provide an **alternative** hypothesis?
 - What interpretation can be made?
 - Sources of **error/anomalous** data?
 - **Implications** of study for field.
 - **Suggestions** for improvement and future research?
 - Do results **agree** with other research?

How well are the results related to other research on the same topic?

- In the discussion section, is there a **review** of how these results **compare** or contrast with **prior research**?
- If this report found something **different** from previous research, then it's important to question on **appraising** the **reliability** of the **findings**.

Discussion

- **Linking** results to original purposes and hypotheses
- Why the **results** turned out the way they did
- Identifying the study's **limitations**
- **Suggesting** steps for further research

Discussion

- Discussion tell a **story** on their own.
- **Gaps** are pointed to.
- Ability to **clarify** the differences if any.
- The conclusions follow from the work **described?**
- The last sentence should be the **conclusion**

Evaluating Discussion

- **Consistency** of Discussion with findings
- Appropriateness of **generalizations**
- Discussion of **implications** of findings
- Discussion of **limitations** of study
- Alternative **explanation** for findings
- Linkage of Discussion with **theoretical** framework, research questions

Questions to Ask implications

- **What are the implications?**
 - The whole use of research is how far the results can be **generalised**.
 - All authors will tend to think their work is more **important** than the rest of us!
 - What is **new** here?
 - What does it mean for **health care**?
 - Is it relevant to my **speciality**?

Discussion

Common Mistakes

- Combined with **Results**
- **New** results discussed
- **Broad** statements
- **Incorrectly** discussing **inconclusive** results
- **Ambiguous** data sources
- **Missing** information

Discussion

Consider if:

- 1- It covers **all findings** presented in "Results".
- 2- The data are **compared** with reports of others.
- 3- The comparisons are **rational**.
- 4- References are **relevant** and **recently** published.
- 5- **Irrelevant** discussions are **not** included.
- 6- Discussion is not **redundant** of results.
- 7- It encompasses a **logic** volume.
- 8- Include a **conclusive** final part.

Discussion

1. Mentioning the **main results** and their **relationships** that are mentioned in the findings;
2. Mentioning any point that is **related** to the obtained results or that these obtained results are **far** from expected;
3. Comparing the results with **other studies**,
4. Possible **justification** of the differences between the studies,
5. Mentioning the **mechanism** of intervention effect or relationships between variables
6. Theoretical findings and their scientific **applications**;
7. Mention of **suggestions**:
 - 1- About the **topic** of the article and
 - 2- Regarding **further studies**,

Conclusion

1. A very **brief** summary of the discussion,
2. (limited to one paragraph).
3. Only the **most important** results according to the main **objectives** of the study.
4. Without bringing **numbers** and tables.
5. The reader is assigned a **task**.
6. It is not necessary to write the **P-value**.
7. **Reference** writing is not necessary.

Conclusion

- It covers main **findings** after **comparison** with other studies in discussion and **important** recommendation.
- Without refer to the **references**.
- Without detail of result and **P-value**.
- **Consistency** of conclusions with findings
- **Linkage** of conclusions with research questions

Acknowledgment

- **Who?**
- **What?**
- **Source of funding**
- **Conflict of interests**
- **Permission**

Acknowledgments

1. The authors would like to thank their **colleagues**, project guides, **companies** or organizations that provide project costs, **typists**, etc.
2. The authors are **obliged** to mention and thank them in this section only after obtaining (written) **permission** and the consent of the individuals (especially in the case of **named individuals**).
3. The names of the **authors** should not appear here.

References (Bibliography)

- Are the references and citations **formatted** properly? (Vancouver or Harvard style)
- Are the references "**fully** formed"?
- Are they **retrievable**?
- If you find **statements** in the paper which you consider to be **important** check that a **reference** is provided.
- Be **suspicious** if **no** reference is given, or if the references which are provided are **dated**, or predominantly in **obscure journals**.

References Methods

1. **MLA: American Modern Language Association**
2. **Chicago method**
3. **IEEE**
4. **Vancouver method**
5. **APA (American Psychological Associations)**
6. **Harvard method**
7. **ACS (American Chemical Society)**
8. **AIP (American Institute of Physics)**
9. **ALWD (Association of Legal Writing Directors)**
10. **AMA (American Medical Association)**
11. **AMS (American Mathematical Society)**
12. **AP (Associated Press)**
13. **APSA (American Political Science Association)**
14. **ASA (American Sociological Association)**
15. **ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers)**
16. **ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)**
17. **Bluebook (Harvard: Law)**
18. **CSE (Council of Science Editors)**
19. **Government information**
20. **GSA (Geological Society of America)**
21. **NLM: National Library of Medicine**

References

1. In an article, you should use only **one method** (Vancouver or Harvard or...);
2. In the **Vancouver** method, the **number** of each reference is written in parentheses in the text or above the relevant text, and the references are listed in the order they are written in the text, at the end of the article (mentioning the number).
3. In the Harvard method, writing the author and the year of publication of the article (in parentheses) in the text and bringing the references at the end in the order of last name or year.
4. Never cite the sources of **another article** as the source of your article.
5. In the article, all the references mentioned at the end of the article must be used and Vic versa.
6. The address of the sources should be written **completely** (the relevant **principles** are given in the guide for the authors of the journals).
7. **Informal lectures** cannot be used as a source of material.

Software for references

- Mendeley
- Zotero
- Citavi
- EndNote
- RefWorks
- Reference Manager

“Those who **have** the most to say,
usually say it with the **fewest words**”

Types of articles

1. Scientific or Original article

2. Review paper

3. Meta Analysis

4. Conference Report

5. Meeting Abstract

6. Case Report

7. Brief Report or Short

8. Letter to the Editor

9. Editorial

10. Personal Views

11. Special Communicat



Letter to the Editor:

1. Letter to the editor may be:
 1. Expert **opinions**,
 2. Readers' suggestions,
 3. **Criticisms** about the latest articles published in the journal, or
 4. Summaries or parts of research **results**.
2. The total **volume** of the letter to the editor is between 1 and 2 pages (maximum **500** words).
3. The letter to the editor has the **main text** without sub-headings and usually without tables and diagrams.

Structure of the letter to the editor (for research)

1- **Title:** Like other articles.

2- **Authors:** Like other articles

3- **Main text:** Include:

1. Short **introduction** (the reason for writing a letter, such as time urgency, etc.),
2. Summary of the **methods**,
3. **Findings** (the most important part of the main text), and
4. **Conclusions.**

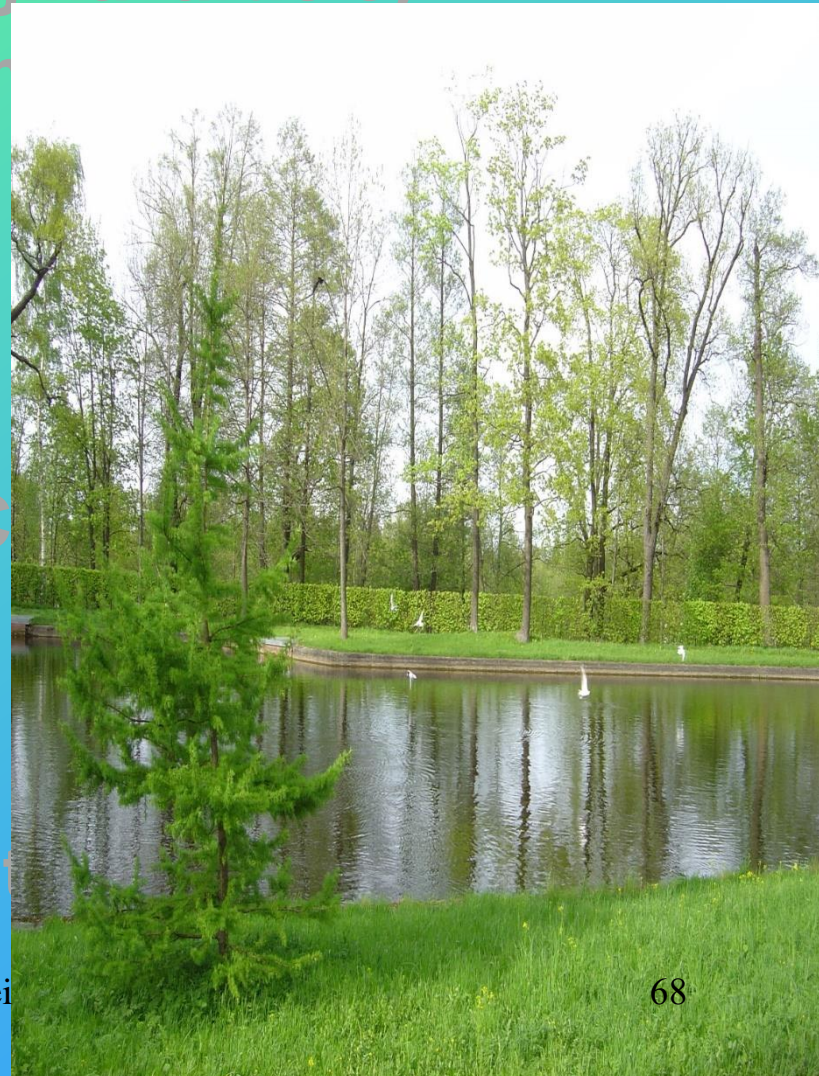
4- **References:** (maximum 5 sources).

Structure of the letter to the editor (for comment)

- There is no need to follow the **research** structure when **commenting**.
- Usually, in such cases, the **introduction** refers to the **material** written in the journal that is going to be **criticized**, and its **characteristics**.
- Then, the **problems** on the content are mentioned in a detailed and **documented** manner.
- Then the **opinions** of the author of the document are mentioned to the **sources** about the desired content.
- At the end, **suggestions** may be made.

Types of articles

1. Scientific paper (Original article)
2. Review paper (systematic review)
3. Meta Analysis
4. Conference Report
5. Meeting Abstract
- 6. Case Report**
7. Brief Report (Short Communication)
8. Letter to the Editor
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Case Report

- Description of **one** or more (2 or 3) **rare** or **unusual** cases of **diseases** or **unusual events**.
- The case report can be a **basis** for hypothesis and **new researches**.
- Journals such as the **Lancet** and the **New England Medical Journal** publish at least one case report in each of their **issues**.

Structure of the case reports

1- **Abstract** (some journals):

- 150-100 **words**,
- Reason for **referral**,
- Introduction of the **patient**, and
- **Results**.

2- **Introduction** (some journals):

- Writing in one or two paragraphs **compactly**,
- How to draw the **attention** of the "**case**" to the mind of the writer,
- Major **features**,
- Review of **texts** (brief reference), and
- The reason for being **unique** or unexpected.

Structure of the case reports

3- Case or patient **description**:

- Introduction of the patient, age, sex, reason for referral, history, clinical data, laboratory data, interesting points in clinical and laboratory examination, treatment results and the end of the work.
- Using the picture of the patient (observing ethical points)
- Adding findings related to the patient's family after the case description.

4- **Discussion** and conclusion:

- Comparison with the results of other reports and providing evidence of its novelty.
- Logical and scientific discussion and interpretation about achieving such results.
- Avoid repeating the material presented in the patient introduction section.

5- **References**:

Types of articles

1. Scientific paper (Original article)
- 2. Review paper (systematic review)**
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Systematic review is a **research approach**:

- Choosing a **regular method** for retrieving original articles
- Determining **criteria** for selecting or rejecting articles
- **Selection** of articles based on established criteria
- **Studying, evaluating** and criticizing selected articles
- **Writing** the main article
- Attention to the **characteristics** of a systematic review article.

Features of a systematic review article:

- The subject of the article is a **specific clinical aspect**, it is not **general**.
- The **references** are very **comprehensive**.
- The **references** have been retrieved with a systematic and **clear search** method.
- The clear **criteria** for selecting articles and their contents are **predetermined**.
- **The criteria** are used for **all** information and articles in the **same** way.
- Usually, **accurate numerical** information is used in the **conclusion** section.
- If statistical analysis methods are used on the data, the article is **meta-analysis**.

Review Article

1- Abstract:

- **75-100 words**
- **Introduction** of the subject and what **sources** have been revised from what **date** to what date.

2- Introduction:

- Introduction of the disease and what is **known** and **unknown** about it.
- Explanation of the **purpose** of the article

3- **Methods:**

- **Description** and introduction of the **sources** used
- **Databases** of obtained sources
- **Time** period of review of sources in the article
- The **language** of books and publications used
- Definition of **important words** and terms of the article
- How to **collect** information from different articles for scientific conclusions,
- How to **generalization** in meta-analysis articles.

4- The main part (sequence of parts):

- Etiology
- Pathogenesis
- Clinical, radiological and laboratory **manifestations**
- Diagnosis
- treatment
- Prognosis
- Final **conclusion**

Another type of sequence of parts:

- Organizing content from **general** to **detailed**
- According to the **classification** of subjects

Example: Evaluation methods of medical students

- **Oral** methods
- **Written** methods
- **Comparison** of validity of these methods
- **Etc.**
- **The final conclusion**

- A systematic review article is a review that answers a **good clinical question**, "Well formulated clinical question".
- Characteristics of a good clinical question:
 - 1- A question that considers a **specific target** group in clear conditions (for example, "patients over 60 years old who visit the outpatient clinic").
 - 2- It has a **specific issue** (such as high blood pressure).
 - 3- It considers a type of test or **special treatment** (for example, pharmacological treatment).
 - 4- Considers one or more **specific outcomes** related to the above cases (such as cardiovascular complications or death).
- Pay attention to the following **example**:

“Does the pharmacological treatment of high blood pressure in patients over 60 years of age reduce cardiovascular complications or lead to a reduction in mortality?”

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Brief Report

- **What is the short report made of?:**
 - 1) From **ongoing original research**
 - 2) **new and important** results of scientific research.
- The short report is **1200** (1000 to 1500) **words**.
- Sometimes, instead of 4 main parts, the original article has **one main** text.

Brief Report

These manuscripts are **short reports** of :

- **original** studies
- **evaluations**
- unique, **first-time** reports of clinical case series.
- Recommended length: **1000-1500** words
- no more than a total of **3 tables or figures**.
- no more than a **15 references**



Parts of brief report

- 1) **Title,**
- 2) **Authors,**
- 3) **Abstract (100-150 words),**
- 4) **Main text,**
- 5) **Maximum (1-3 tables or graphs),**
- 6) **Acknowledgments, and**
- 7) **References (10-15 sources).**

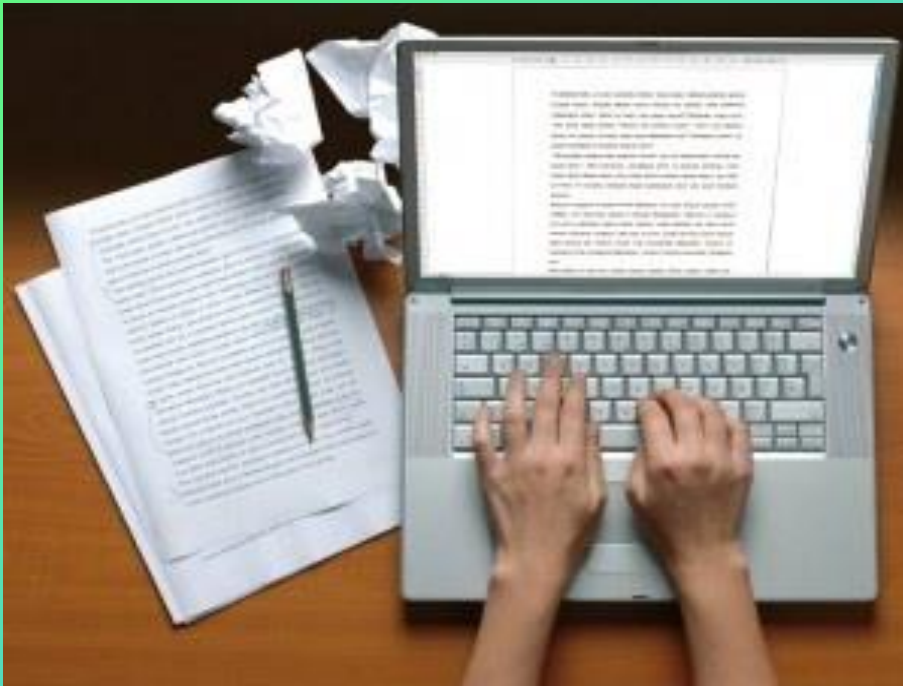
The most important **reasons** for **rejecting** articles (signs of a **bad** article):

- 1- The contents are not **suitable** for the **readers**.
- 2- **Weak** content **writing**,
- 3- Content not being **important**,
- 4- **Inaccuracy** of the study,
- 5- Weak research **plan**,
- 6- Content not being **documented**,
- 7- Very **technical** content,
- 8- **Repetitiveness** of the subject,
- 9- Writing with **old** typing tools,
- 10- There are many editing **errors**,
- 11- Existence of **unbelievable claims** and
- 12- The first **two** paragraphs are **incomprehensible**.

What is the solution?

- **Rejection** of an article does not always mean that it is **not good**, but usually because there is too much **competition** for **limited space** in journals.
- Every research paper is **revised** at least once.
- Some researchers think that the **request** for **revision** is equivalent to **rejecting** the article.
- If you are asked to make corrections in the content, it is **necessary** to make these corrections as much as **possible**, or in some cases, provide some **explanation**.
- If you don't want to revise your article, you can send it to **another** journal.

“There is no way to get **experience** except through experience.”



Resources

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Thank you & Good luck

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