**TYPES OF ARTICLES**

**RESEARCH ARTICLE:**

When scientists and other scholars want to make the results of their work public, they usually begin by publishing them in a scholarly journal with a title like *New England Journal of Medicine,* or *Journal of Cell Biology.*

What is and isn’t in a research article?

Research articles will usually contain:

* A summary or “abstract”
* A description of the research
* The results they got
* The significance of the results.

Research articles ***are not***good places to find:

* Basic summaries
* General introductions to a topic

They *are*the best way to access:

* The most recent, “cutting edge” research
* Authoritative information about older research

**RESEARCH PAPER**

A research paper is the culmination and final product of an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition. It is, perhaps, helpful to think of the research paper as a living thing, which grows and changes as the student explores, interprets, and evaluates sources related to a specific topic. Primary and secondary sources are the heart of a research paper, and provide its nourishment; without the support of and interaction with these sources, the research paper would morph into a different genre of writing (e.g., an encyclopedic article). The research paper serves not only to further the field in which it is written, but also to provide the student with an exceptional opportunity to increase her knowledge in that field. It is also possible to identify a research paper by what it is not.

A research paper is not simply an informed summary of a topic by means of primary and secondary sources. It is neither a book report nor an opinion piece nor an expository essay consisting solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a particular topic. Instead, it is a genre that requires one to spend time investigating and evaluating sources with the intent to offer interpretations of the texts, and not unconscious regurgitations of those sources. The goal of a research paper is not to inform the reader what others have to say about a topic, but to draw on what others have to say about a topic and engage the sources in order to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue at hand. This is accomplished through two major types of research papers.

**TYPES OF RESEARCH PAPERS:**

**Argumentative research paper:**

The argumentative research paper consists of an introduction in which the writer clearly introduces the topic and informs his audience exactly which stance he intends to take; this stance is often identified as the thesis statement. An important goal of the argumentative research paper is persuasion, which means the topic chosen should be debatable or controversial. For example, it would be difficult for a student to successfully argue in favor of the following stance.

Cigarette smoking poses medical dangers and may lead to cancer for both the smoker and those who experience secondhand smoke.

Perhaps 25 years ago this topic would have been debatable; however, today, it is assumed that smoking cigarettes is, indeed, harmful to one's health. A better thesis would be the following. Although it has been proven that cigarette smoking may lead to sundry health problems in the smoker, the social acceptance of smoking in public places demonstrates that many still do not consider secondhand smoke as dangerous to one's health as firsthand smoke.

In this sentence, the writer is not challenging the current accepted stance that both firsthand and secondhand cigarette smoke is dangerous; rather, she is positing that the social acceptance of the latter over the former is indicative of a cultural double-standard of sorts. The student would support this thesis throughout her paper by means of both primary and secondary sources, with the intent to persuade her audience that her particular interpretation of the situation is viable.

**Analytical research paper:**

The analytical research paper often begins with the student asking a question (a.k.a. a research question) on which he has taken no stance. Such a paper is often an exercise in exploration and evaluation. For example, perhaps one is interested in the Old English poem *Beowulf*. He has read the poem intently and desires to offer a fresh reading of the poem to the academic community. His question may be as follows.

How should one interpret the poem *Beowulf*?

His research may lead him to the following conclusion.

*Beowulf* is a poem whose purpose it was to serve as an exemplum of heterodoxy for tenth- and eleventh-century monastic communities.

Though his topic may be debatable and controversial, it is not the student's intent to persuade the audience that his ideas are right while those of others are wrong. Instead, his goal is to offer a critical interpretation of primary and secondary sources throughout the paper--sources that should, ultimately, buttress his particular analysis of the topic. The following is an example of what his thesis statement may look like once he has completed his research.

Though *Beowulf* is often read as a poem that recounts the heroism and supernatural exploits of the protagonist Beowulf, it may also be read as a poem that served as an exemplum of heterodoxy for tenth- and eleventh-century monastic communities found in the Danelaw.

This statement does not negate the traditional readings of *Beowulf*; instead, it offers a fresh and detailed reading of the poem that will be supported by the student's research.

It is typically not until the student has begun the writing process that his thesis statement begins to take solid form. In fact, the thesis statement in an analytical paper is often more fluid than the thesis in an argumentative paper. Such is one of the benefits of approaching the topic without a predetermined stance.

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLES:**

[Journals publish different types of articles](http://www.editage.com/insights/6-article-types-that-journals-publish-a-guide-for-early-career-researchers); however, perhaps the most valued publications are original research articles. Original research articles are primary sources of scientific literature and present an original study. Authors have to conduct research on a particular topic through experiments, surveys, observation, etc. and report the findings of their study through original research articles. For a manuscript to be considered an original research article, [the following conditions need to be met](http://libguides.unf.edu/c.php?g=177009&p=1164349):

* It should be written by the researchers who actually conducted the study.
* It should include the hypothesis or research question, the purpose of the study, and the details of the research methods.
* The research findings should be reported.
* These findings should be interpreted and possible implications discussed.

Note that even if a study does not produce positive results, it is regarded as original research and can be published.  A study is said to have negative results when findings prove that the hypothesis was wrong. However, this is also an important learning that other researchers will benefit from. Hence negative results should also be published. Unfortunately, many authors and journal editors have a [publication bias](https://www.editage.com/insights/publication-and-reporting-biases-and-how-they-impact-publication-of-research) and [do not prefer studies with negative findings](https://www.editage.com/insights/why-are-negative-results-rarely-published). However, the scientific community has started realizing that not publishing negative results can slow down the progress of science. Hence, certain journals such as [**Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine**](http://www.jnrbm.com/), [**PLOS ONE**](https://www.editage.com/insights/plos-ones-new-collection-to-report-negative-null-and-inconclusive-results), and [**The All Results Journals**](http://www.arjournals.com/ojs/) are proactively countering publication biases by encouraging researchers to publish negative results.

**REVIEW ARTICLES:**

A **review article** is an article that summarizes the current state of understanding on a topic.A review article surveys and summarizes previously published studies, rather than reporting new facts or analysis. Review articles are sometimes also called **survey articles** or, in news publishing, **overview articles**. Academic publications that specialize in review articles are known as review journals.Review articles teach about:

* the main people working in a field
* recent major advances and discoveries
* significant gaps in the research
* current debates
* ideas of where research might go next

Review articles in academic journals analyze or discuss research previously published by others, rather than reporting new experimental results. An expert's opinion is valuable, but an expert's assessment of the literature can be more valuable. When reading individual articles, readers could miss features that are apparent to an expert clinician-researcher. Readers benefit from the expert's explanation and assessment of the validity and applicability of individual studies.

Review articles come in the form of literature reviews and, more specifically, systematic reviews; both are a form of secondary literature. Literature reviews provide a summary of what the authors believe are the best and most relevant prior publications. Systematic reviews determine an objective list of criteria, and find all previously published original experimental papers that meet the criteria; they then compare the results presented in these papers.

**PERIODICALS:**

**Periodical literature** (also called a **periodical publication** or simply a **periodical**) is a [published](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Published) work that appears in a new edition on a regular schedule. The most familiar example is the [magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine), typically published weekly, monthly, or as a quarterly. [Newspapers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper), often published daily or weekly, are, strictly speaking, [serials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serial_(publishing)), not periodicals. Other examples of periodicals are [newsletters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newsletter), [literary magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_magazine) (literary journals), [academic journals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_journal) (including [scientific journals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_journal)), [science magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_science_magazines), and [yearbooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yearbook).

These examples are typically published and referenced by [volume](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volume_(bibliography)) and issue. "Volume" typically refers to the number of years the publication has been circulated, and "Issue" refers to how many times that periodical has been published during that year. For example, the April 2011 publication of a monthly magazine first published in 2002 would be listed as, "Volume 10, Issue 4." [Roman numerals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_numerals) are sometimes used in reference to the Volume number.

When [citing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citation) a work in a periodical, there are standardized formats such as [*The Chicago Manual of Style*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chicago_Manual_of_Style). In the latest edition of this style, a work with volume number 17 and issue number 3 may be written as follows:

* James M. Heilman, and Andrew G. West. "Wikipedia and Medicine: Quantifying Readership, Editors, and the Significance of Natural Language." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 17, no. 3 (2015). doi:10.2196/jmir.4069.

**JOURNALS**:

In [academic publishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_publishing), a **scientific journal** is a [periodical publication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_publication) intended to further the progress of [science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science), usually by reporting new [research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research). Articles in scientific journals are mostly written by active scientists such as students, researchers and professors instead of professional journalists. There are thousands of scientific journals in publication, and many more have been published at various points in the past. Most journals are highly specialized, although some of the oldest journals such as [*Nature*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_(journal)) publish articles and [scientific papers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_paper) across a wide range of scientific fields. Scientific journals contain articles that have been [peer reviewed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarly_peer_review), in an attempt to ensure that articles meet the journal's standards of quality, and scientific [validity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Validity). Although scientific journals are superficially similar to [professional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional) [magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine), they are actually quite different. Issues of a scientific journal are rarely read casually, as one would read a magazine. The publication of the results of research is an essential part of the [scientific method](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method). If they are describing experiments or calculations, they must supply enough details that an independent researcher could repeat the experiment or calculation to verify the results. Each such journal article becomes part of the permanent scientific record.

Articles in scientific journals can be used in research and higher education. Scientific articles allow researchers to keep up to date with the developments of their field and direct their own research. An essential part of a scientific article is citation of earlier work. The impact of articles and journals is often assessed by counting citations ([citation impact](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citation_impact)). Some classes are partially devoted to the explication of classic articles, and [seminar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seminar) classes can consist of the presentation by each student of a classic or current paper. Schoolbooks and textbooks have been written usually only on established topics, while the latest research and more obscure topics are only accessible through scientific articles. In a scientific research group or [academic department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_department) it is usual for the content of current scientific journals to be discussed in [journal clubs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_club). Public funding bodies often require the results to be published in scientific journals. Academic credentials for promotion into academic ranks are established in large part by the number and impact of scientific articles published. Many doctoral programs allow for [thesis by publication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thesis_by_publication), where the candidate is required to publish a certain number of scientific articles.

Articles tend to be highly technical, representing the latest theoretical research and experimental results in the field of science covered by the journal. They are often incomprehensible to anyone except for researchers in the field and advanced students. In some subjects this is inevitable given the nature of the content. Usually, rigorous rules of [scientific writing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_writing) are enforced by the editors; however, these rules may vary from journal to journal, especially between journals from different publishers. Articles are usually either original articles reporting completely new results or reviews of current literature. There are also scientific publications that bridge the gap between articles and books by publishing thematic volumes of chapters from different authors. Many journals have a regional focus, specializing in publishing papers from a particular geographic region, like [*African Invertebrates*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Invertebrates).

**MONOGRAPH:**

A **monograph** is a specialist work of writing (in contrast to [reference works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_work))[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monograph" \l "cite_note-1) on a single subject or an aspect of a subject, usually by a single author. In library cataloging, *monograph* has a broader meaning, that of a nonserial publication complete in one [volume](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volume_(bibliography)) (book) or a finite number of volumes. Thus it differs from a [serial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_publication" \o "Periodical publication)publication such as a [magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine), [journal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_journal), or [newspaper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper). In this context only, books such as [novels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel) are monographs.

The term "monographia" is derived from the Greek "mono" (single) and *grapho* (to write), meaning "writing on a single subject". Unlike a textbook, which surveys the state of knowledge in a field, the main purpose of a monograph is to present primary research and original scholarship. This research is presented at length, distinguishing a monograph from an article. For these reasons, publication of a monograph is commonly regarded as vital for career progression in many academic disciplines. Intended for other researchers and bought primarily by libraries, monographs are generally published as individual volumes in a short print run.

**MAGAZINE:**

A **magazine** is a [publication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publication), usually a [periodical publication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_literature), which is [printed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printing) or [electronically published](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_publishing) (sometimes referred to as an [online magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_magazine)). Magazines are generally published on a regular schedule and contain a variety of [content](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_(media)). They are generally financed by [advertising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advertising), by a [purchase price](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newsagent%27s_shop), by prepaid [subscriptions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subscription_business_model), or a combination of the three. At its root, the word "magazine" refers to a collection or storage location. In the case of written publication, it is a collection of written articles. This explains why magazine publications share the word root with [gunpowder magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunpowder_magazine), [artillery magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine_(artillery)), [firearms magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine_(firearms)), and, in French, retail stores such as [department stores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_store).

**PROCEEDINGS:**

In academia and librarianship, **proceedings** or **conference proceedings** are a collection of [academic papers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_paper) published in the context of an [academic conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_conference) or workshop. They are usually distributed in printed or electronic volumes, either before the conference opens or after it has closed. The proceedings typically contain the contributions made by researchers at the conference. They are the written record of the work that is presented to fellow researchers. In many fields, they may be considered [grey literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey_literature).

Selecting and collecting papers is organized by one or more persons, who form the *editorial team*. The quality of the papers is typically ensured by having external people read the papers before they are accepted in the proceedings. The level of quality control varies considerably from conference to conference: some have only a binary accept/reject decision, others go through more thorough feedback and revisions cycles ([peer reviewing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarly_peer_review) or refereeing). Depending on the level of the conference, this process can take up to a year. The editors decide about the composition of the proceedings, the order of the papers, and produce the preface and possibly other pieces of text. Although most changes in papers occur on basis of consensus between editors and authors, editors can also single-handedly make changes in papers.

Since the collection of papers comes from individual researchers, the character of proceedings is distinctly different from an educational textbook. Each paper typically is quite isolated from the other papers in the proceedings. Mostly there is no general argument leading from one contribution to the next.

In some cases, the [editors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editing) of the proceedings may decide to further develop the proceedings into a textbook. This may even be a goal at the outset of the conference.

Proceedings are published in-house by the organizing institution of the conference or via an [academic publisher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_publishing). For example, the [*Lecture Notes in Computer Science*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecture_Notes_in_Computer_Science) by Springer take much of their input from proceedings. Increasingly, proceedings are published in electronic format via the internet or on CD.

In the sciences, the quality of publications in conference proceedings is usually not as high as that of international [scientific journals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_journal). However, in [computer science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_science), papers published in conference proceedings are accorded a higher status than in other fields, due to the fast-moving nature of the field.

A number of full-fledged [academic journals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_journal) unconnected to particular conferences also use the word "proceedings" as part of their name, for example, [*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proceedings_of_the_National_Academy_of_Sciences_of_the_United_States_of_America).