

Structural Overview

Abstract

The abstract is an overview of the article. It is like a book blurb but with all of the spoilers. In the abstract, we can find what the article is about, a brief description of the methods, and a quick overview of the findings. Sometimes, especially at Bennington, we only have access to the abstract of an article. Luckily, we can cite the abstract only. [Abstract from X]

Introduction

The introduction of a scientific paper is different from other paper types. The introduction provides an overview of previous/existing research, with a focus on the work that has influenced or led to the development of the current paper. Additionally, the introduction may include a critique of the existing body of research, or an identification of the gap within research that this paper fills. In the introduction subject-specific terms used later in the paper will be defined in detail, as well as theoretical frameworks or epistemologies used in the analysis.

Methods

In the method section, we not only get an understanding of how the analysis was performed, but also how the data was collected and from whom. There may be a table of “descriptive statistics” or descriptions of participants. Additionally, the exclusion criteria, or reasons for not using any part of the data, will be outlined in the methods section.

Results

The results will outline the outcomes from the analysis. This may be statistical figures, diagrams, and tables, or themes and quotes. Within this section, you will not find an explanation of the findings or any further analysis.

Discussion

This section provides a connection between these findings and the rest of the body of research and reality. The implications of these findings, and interpretations of the results, and the limitations of the research are all found within the discussion. The discussion section is the real MEATY part of the study.

Conclusion

The conclusions explain the significance and impact of the research findings. Meaning, the way that this information interacts with the current body of knowledge, and existing practices in the world. This may be the impact on treatments or clinical practices, or the future of research, or policy. Additionally, the conclusion will suggest next actions, such as further research or policy changes.