IMRAD

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Analysis
- Discussion/conclusion
Introduction

CARS Model (Create a Research Space Model)

Move 1. Establish a research territory
  • introduce and review previous research (O)
  • show importance, central interest, problem, relevancy (O)

Move 2. Establish a niche
  • indicate a gap or extend previous knowledge (O)

Move 3. Occupy the niche
  • outline purposes or nature of present research (O)
  • list research questions or hypotheses (PISF)
  • announce principal findings (PISF)
  • state value of present research (PISF)
  • indicate structure of the research paper (PISF)

PISF = probable in some fields, rare in others
O = obligatory
Methods, Results, Analysis

- Data/results
- Inference
- Interpretation
Discussion, Conclusion

- Summarise findings
- Transition
- Evaluate findings
- Implications
- Limitations
- Consider findings within larger research area
- Possible future work
- Leave a “final message”
Story Telling

OCAR
- Opening
- Challenge
- Action
- Resolution
Opening

• Whom/what is the story about/who are the characters?
• Where does the story take place?
• What does your reader need to understand about the situation to follow the story?
• What is the larger problem you are addressing?
Challenge

Does it
- contain an obvious challenge?
- described the specific knowledge you hope to gain? (The question that drove you to do the research)
- briefly lay out the research approach ("to learn X, we did Y")
- provide a brief overview of the conclusions?
Introduction

Does it
- define a problem and narrow to an interesting question?
- show us what we don’t know and why it is important?
- identify the boundaries of current knowledge?
- connect the opening and the challenge?
Action

Consists of Materials, Methods, Results/Analysis and most of Discussion

Do you

• clearly differentiate between Data, Inference and Interpretation?
• answer the question “What has been done to address the challenge?”
• show your contribution to the larger problem?
Resolution

Does it

• have your “take-home message”?
• use your strongest and most memorable words?
• step backwards through OCAR? (reiterate the action, answer the questions, demonstrate contribution to larger problem)
• explain how the characters and their world changed as a result of the action?
• show how our understanding of “nature” has advanced?
• concentrate on what you achieved rather than what you didn’t achieve?
Paragraphs

Structure
- Topic sentence,
- Supporting sentences,
- Concluding/climax sentence

Content
- One idea per paragraph
- Clearly stated issue (topic)
- Clearly ascertainable point
- Sufficient discussion to establish the point
- Linked to previous paragraph

Length
- Variable – but normally more than one sentence!
Sentences

Basic word order
- Subject, verb, object (subject, verb, complement)

However there are other things to consider (reader expectations) e.g.
- Old information / new information (end-focus)
- Simple clauses / complex clauses
- Emphasis

Consider also
- Does the verb express the action of the sentence?
- Are subject/verb and verb/object as close to each other as possible?
- Are all the clauses in the right place?