

ACADEMIC TEXTS

BASIC FEATURES:

- impersonal style (e.g. Passive forms)
- clear, concise language
- rational, critical attitude
- no colloquialisms

FUNCTIONS:

- describing processes and procedures
- giving descriptions and definitions
- classifying, generalising
- comparing and contrasting
- interpreting data
- speculating, predicting
- discussing, drawing conclusions

TYPES:

- reports
- dissertations, thesis
- articles
- project proposals
- conference reports
- manuals, etc.

TITLE
Author/Institution

ABSTRACT

1. Basic information
2. main goals of study
3. main results
4. conclusions/suggestions

INTRODUCTION

1. definition of the problem
2. references (other studies)
3. search techniques

METHODOLOGY/MATERIALS

1. description of materials
2. method
3. statistical data

RESULTS

1. referring to results (tables, graphs)
2. findings
3. comments

40 – 60%
(central part of
the article)

DISCUSSION

1. confrontation of the research hypothesis with obtained results (i.e. presentation of principles and relationships)
2. how your study agrees/disagrees with the research so far
3. theoretical and practical implications of your results

30%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

thanking for help, ideas, suggestions, interpretations, equipment, materials,...

REFERENCES

What questions does the abstract answer?

- Why was the experiment done?
- How was the experiment done?
- What were the main results?
- What were the principal conclusions from the results?

What questions does the introduction answer?

- What is the subject of the paper?
- What is the area of interest, what have other researchers found?
- How does the current research relate to previous researches?
- What is the research objective and what hypothesis is being tested?

Tenses used in:

- abstract: present, present perfect, past
- introduction: present, past
- methodology/materials: past
- results: past
- discussion: present, past
- acknowledgements: present