**IMRAD Paper Structure**

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|  | Introduction  Why | Methods  How | Results  What | Discussion  So what |
| What’s the point | Problem/Hook/Attention getting/Teaser  Background/History of the question  Goals/Objectives/gaps to fill/Hypotheses | Procedure/Recipe  Ensuring repeatability  Field-/stats-/program-methods  Study area  Data sources | Main results without judgment  Bare bones  Figures and tables  Performance of new methods | Declaring success/problem solved  Answering questions/hypotheses  Interpretation of results  Novelty/context to prior work  Limitations and alternative explanations  Application and implications |
| Structure | Opener: starting broad, leading to the main question/theme/research need  Context and justification for objective 1  Context and justification for objective 2  Context and justification for objective 3  Goal statement, followed by specific research objectives | Study area  Data (if they apply to all objectives)  Analysis related to objective 1  Analysis related to objective 2  Analysis related to objective 3  Sometimes: verification/ accuracy assessment/ robustness checks | Results related to objective 1  Results related to objective 2  Results related to objective 3  Sometimes: verification/ accuracy assessment/ robustness checks | Opener: summary of the key finding and message, parallels goal from intro  Discussion related to objective 1  Discussion related to objective 2  Discussion related to objective 3  Sometimes: caveats and limitations  Sometimes: management and conservation implications  Conclusion: typically just one paragraph at the end of the Discussion |

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|  | Introduction | Methods | Results (and) | Discussion |

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| Comments | * About 1,000 words in length * Starts broad, and narrows down * Quite a few references, but the point is NOT a literature review, but rather a justification for the new research * Rarely any figures * Ideally, the reader should be able to write the last paragraph without having read it * Only ONE goal statement in the last paragraph. * Do not report that so-and-so studied this-and-that, but instead report findings; * References should be at the end of sentences, no more than 3 references per set of brackets * Typically no sub-section headings * No methods sketch in the Intro * Ideally no study area so that the questions retain broad relevance | * About 1,000 words in length * Report only the methods that were necessary to obtain the results, not everything that was done * Typically just 1-2 figures (study area, input data) * Use sub-section headings * Include typically only a few references | * About 1,000 words in length * Report only the results that are relevant to address the objectives and conclusions, not everything that was done * All other figures and tables here * Highlight the key point of each figure/ table in the text, NOT tons of numbers * Use sub-section headings * Include rarely any references | * About 1,000 words in length * Starts with a fairly broad paragraph, then specific, and then very broad towards the end * Quite a few references to compare and contrast results with other studies * Make clear how broadly applicable/relevant these results are * Good idea to repeat goals and objectives in the respective paragraphs, but they have to match last paragraph of Intro * Includes rarely any figures or tables * Use sub-section headings, but sparingly * No statements on future research needs |