

WRITING AN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale, context
BACKGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be a substantial, critical literature review • Should end with conclusions drawn from the review for the study
THE STUDY	
Aim/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include research objectives/questions/hypothesis(es) if appropriate
Design/Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For quantitative studies this could be: survey, randomised controlled trial, quasi-experimental, descriptive, or cross-sectional • For qualitative study this could be: grounded theory, phenomenology, or ethnography
Sample/Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not give findings about the sample, but include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type – for example random, stratified, convenience, purposive (state what purpose) • Size • Description (provide inclusion and exclusion criteria; a little about the setting) • Justification for the above • Was a power calculation done, if appropriate, and if not, why not? • Response rate
Data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subheadings for different types if appropriate, eg questionnaires, interviews, observation • Pilot study – if done, what changes (if any) did this lead to for the main study? • When the data collection was undertaken
Validity and reliability/ Rigour as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of criteria used – should be appropriate to the design/methodology • Steps taken to ensure this – such as audit trail or peer assessment. Describe results, do not just mention what was done
Ethical considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of interest statement • Ethics committee or institutional review board approval • Information and guarantees given to participants • Any special considerations, and how they were dealt with
Data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including software used, if appropriate, and the measures used to calculate findings
RESULTS/FINDINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with description of actual sample studied • Subheadings as appropriate • For qualitative research – findings and discussion/literature may be integrated
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with limitations • Must be linked to the literature
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real conclusions, not just a summary/repetition of the findings • Recommendations for practice/research/education/management/policy as appropriate, and consistent with the limitations

References: Writing for Publication: An easy to follow guide for nurses interested in publishing their work. (2014). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.