

Article

Description

As a **genre**, an article refers to a paper published in a **journal** or other periodical (e.g., newspaper, newsletter, magazine), whether in print or through a **publisher's** website or another **digital genre** (or both, as is currently common). As a grammatical element, the term "article" refers to various linguistic particles ("a," "an," "the") that precede certain classes of nouns (Caplan, 2019). Here we discuss article as a writing genre.

What is included in a journal article depends on its **audience**, as well as its type. Different types of articles have different **formats** (length, subsections, etc.) (Hartley, 2008). For example, research articles contribute new knowledge based on the results of research after analyzing data or modeling. They typically include **abstracts** and keywords to help readers find the article in a search and get a quick sense of the article's focus (Belcher, 2019). Practitioner-oriented articles tend to share information drawn on research that is reframed for application in real-life contexts. Practitioner articles may use a less formal **style** and **voice** than do research articles, depending on the publication. They may also include visual features that draw the reader's interest, such as sidebars and graphics (see **data commentary**).

Other types of journal articles include essays and conceptual articles that may not draw on empirical data (e.g., in arts, literature, and philosophy). Review articles are a type of complex **literature review** that synthesizes an overview of a topic within a discipline. Other kinds of articles published in academic journals include **book reviews**, letters, and short communications that report preliminary research results in order to establish claims to new knowledge.

23 The format and components of a particular type of article are often constrained by the
24 guidelines of the publication or digital platform. However, some flexibility likely exists in
25 terms of length and additional features such as graphics.

26 **Variations and Tensions**

27 Different types of journal articles are common in different academic disciplines. For
28 example, letters and short communications are often included in science journals such as
29 *Brain and Language* and *Solid State Communications*.

30 Newsletters are print or electronic serial publications that deliver news or advocacy
31 messages from an organization or business to its employees, members, customers, or other
32 audiences. For example, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration publishes a
33 newsletter, *NASA Express*, that shares information on workshops, grants, and professional
34 development opportunities.

35 Some academic writers also write blogs or website articles to share their ideas and
36 experiences and disseminate their research (e.g., Guerin, 2019). Compared with print venues,
37 digital genres can reach a wider audience and enable interaction with readers. However, they
38 do not tend to be peer reviewed.

39 **Graduate Student Voice**

40 I read empirical journal research articles more than other types because they provide
41 current information on topics in education and applied linguistics. However, I sometimes
42 consult practitioner-oriented journal articles for information about teaching. – Yanhong Zuo

43 **Reflection Questions**

44 1. Looking at different kinds of journals in your discipline, what categories of articles
45 are commonly published?

46 2. Have you been involved in writing different types of articles? Which kinds of
47 articles might you be interested in producing, and for which audiences?

48 **For Further Reading**

49 Belcher, W. L. (2019). *Writing your journal article in twelve weeks: A guide to academic*
50 *publishing success* (2nd ed.). University of Chicago Press. The Introduction (pp. 1-13)
51 explains what an article is and the processes of producing journal articles.

52 Hartley, J. (2008). *Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook*. Routledge. The
53 section, “The academic article” (pp. 23-72), introduces the components of an academic
54 article such as title, abstract, and key words.

55 **References**

56 Belcher, W. L. (Ed.). (2019). *Writing your journal article in twelve weeks: A guide to*
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58 Caplan, N. A. (2019). *Grammar choices for graduate and professional writers*. University of
59 Michigan Press.

60 Guerin, C. (2019). Matching introductions and conclusions. Retrieved from
61 [https://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com/2019/11/11/matching-introductions-and-conclusi](https://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com/2019/11/11/matching-introductions-and-conclusions/)
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63 Hartley, J. (2008). *Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook*. Routledge.

64