**Common Features of Research Articles**

**1.**       **Abstract: Four Parts**

a.       WHAT will be researched: “This study will examine the relationship between childhood obesity and the increase of video gaming in our current culture.”

b.      WHY the topic will be researched: “Various studies (Smith 2009; Roy 2010; Andrews 2011) have indicated that children are less active due to interactions with visual media and therefore are suffering from physical problems such as obesity.”

c.       HOW the topic will be researched: “The study will monitor 50 male children between the ages of 7-10 over a year period and assess whether video gaming of 10 or more hours per week leads to less physical activity and increased weight gain.”

d.      WHAT was found:  “Results indicated that male children between the ages of 7-10, who play 10+ hours of video games per week had 30% less physical activity than those who played 0-9 hours per week, and were 75% more likely to be overweight.”

**2.**       **Introduction: WHAT and WHY**

a.       Introduces the topic to be researched within the first few sentences

b.      Indicates WHY the topic is of such importance

c.       Indicates WHY others have researched the topic and the topic needs further analysis

d.      Often, in the last few paragraphs, indicates the research statement: “This study proposes to…”

**3.**       **Methods/Results**

a.       Scientific articles will CONDUCT RESEARCH.  This means that they will provide WHAT THEY DID (METHODS SECTION) and HOW THEY DID IT (RESULTS SECTION)

b.      No discussion of WHY the METHODS or RESULTS SECTION did or found what they did.  Simply a recipe

**5.**       **Discussions**

a.       As the title indicates, this section DISCUSSES the METHODS/RESULTS of the study.  WHY the study resulted as it did

b.      This section will gesture towards limitations

c.       This section will gesture towards need for further research

d.      This section will VALIDATE research done by the author