**Common Features of Research Articles for Social Sciences and Humanities**

1. **Abstract: Four Parts**
   1. WHAT will be researched: “This study will examine the reversal of gender roles as responding to cultural outcomes of WWII in Eudora Welty’s *The Petrified Man*.”
   2. WHY the topic will be researched: “Researchers (Smith 2009; Roy 2010; Andrews 2011) have argued that Welty uses historical events of WWII in order to question well-established gender roles in the short story *The Petrified Man*.”
   3. HOW the topic will be researched: “This paper will utilize literary analysis in order to explore the role of men and women in order uncover ambiguities of gender in *The Petrified Man*.”
   4. WHAT was found: “Literary analysis highlighted Welty’s use of role reversal for questioning well-established cultural configurations of gender.”
2. **Introduction: WHAT and WHY**
   1. Introduces the topic to be researched within the first few sentences
   2. Indicates WHY the topic is of such importance
   3. Indicates WHY others have researched the topic and the topic needs further analysis
   4. Often, in the last few paragraphs, indicates the research statement: “This study proposes to…”
3. **Background: WHAT and HOW**
   1. Gives a thorough overview of what others have SAID, ARGUED, and DONE with the research topic
   2. CRITIQUES what others have SAID, ARGUED, AND DONE with the research topic
   3. PROPOSES/ARGUES how the previous research was LIMITED, SHORT SIGHTED, IN NEED OF FURTHER RESEARCH, or a DIFFERENT APPROACH
4. **Methods/Results (Typically Body of the Essay)**
   1. Will often do a theoretical or artifact based research
   2. Will often use theory or an artifact for analysis and further development of an already established research stance or to question and expand an already established theory or research stance
5. **Discussions (Typically Conclusion of the Essay**
   1. As the title indicates, this section DISCUSSES the findings of the research.
   2. This section will gesture towards limitations
   3. This section will gesture towards need for further research
   4. This section will VALIDATE research done by the author