

The object of publishing a scientific paper is to provide a document that contains sufficient information to enable readers to:

- assess the observations you made
- repeat the experiment if they wish
- determine whether the conclusions drawn are justified by the data.

The basic structure of a paper is summarised by the acronym IMRAD, which stands for:

I ntrouction	(What question was asked?)
M ethods	(How was it studied?)
R esults	(What was found?)
A nd	
D iscussion	(What do the findings mean?)

Hall, George M. "Structure of a scientific paper." How to write a paper. Ed. George M. Hall. 3rd ed. London: BMJ Books, 2003. 1.

The references of your paper are the foundation on which your work is built. They provide the scientific background that justifies the research you have undertaken and the methods you have used. They provide the context in which your research should be interpreted. They should not be collected as an afterthought when your research project is complete. A literature search and reading of the relevant references should be the starting points of any research project.

Howell, Simon. "References." How to write a paper. Ed. George M. Hall. 3rd ed. London: BMJ Books, 2003. 51.