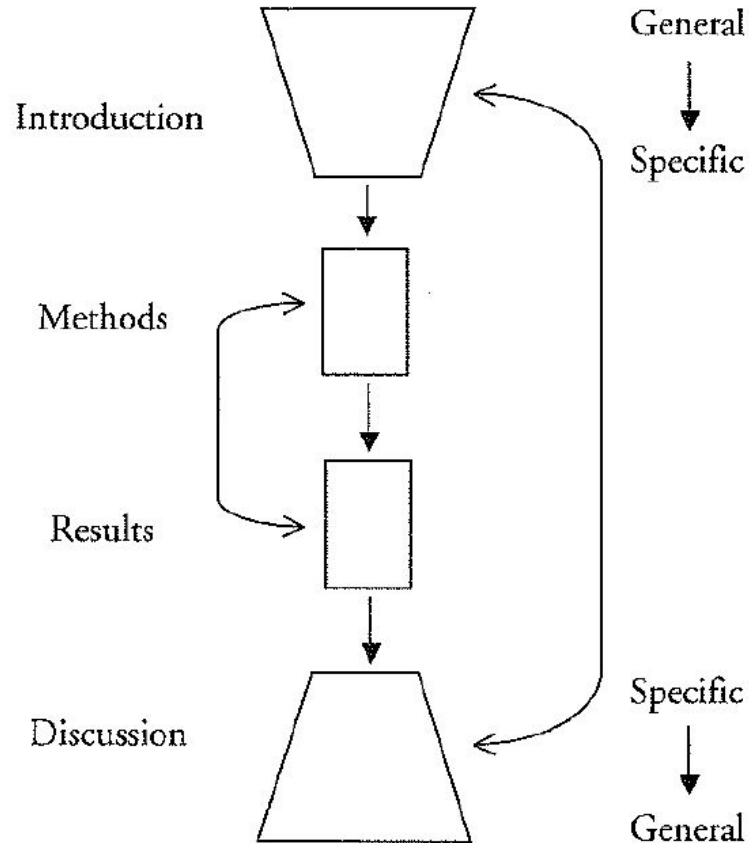# The research paper

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Typical structure

FIGURE 14. Overall Shape of a Research Paper
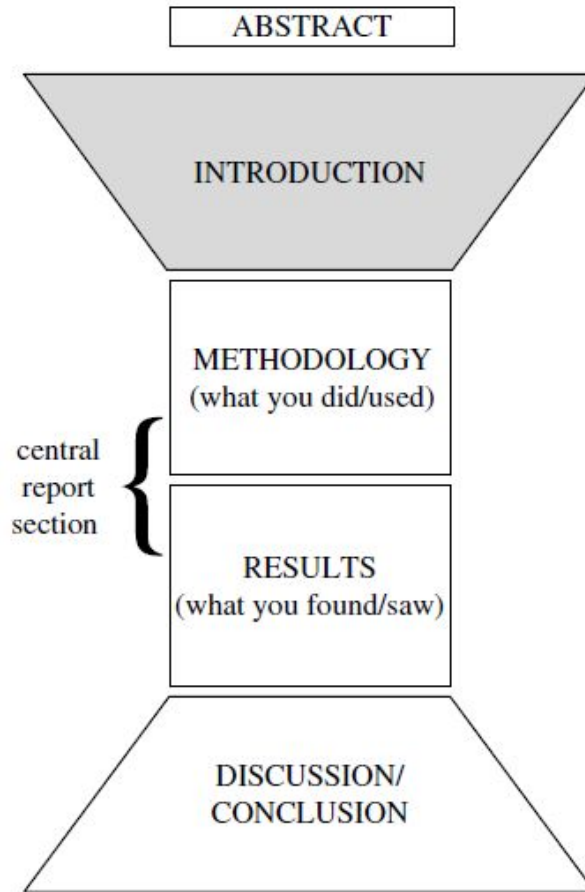
(Swales and Feak 2012)

Fig. 1. The shape of a research article or thesis.

(Glasman-Deal 2010)

Linguistic features

TABLE 18. Frequencies of Selected Features in RP Sections

	Introduction	Methods	Results	Discussion
Present tense	high	low	low	high
Past tense	mid	high	high	mid
Present perfect	mid	low	low	mid
Passive	low	high	variable	variable
Citations	high	low	variable	high
Hedges	mid	low	mid	high
Evaluative comments	high	low	variable	high

(Swales and Feak 2012)

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Rare linguistic features

— 'Progressive or continuous forms are extremely rare […] Second person pronoun forms are absent (in contrast to textbooks), except for the occasional imperative verb in comments on non-verbal data or in footnotes.'

(Swales 1990)

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Useful phrases for writing

Academic Phrasebank

Wallwork (2016)

English for Writing Research Papers

Useful Phrases

Many non-native researchers begin their writing career by reading extensively about their topic in English, and noting down useful generic phrases that they can then 'paste' into their own work. You can use such phrases as a template / structure for your paper into which you insert your own data. You at least know that these ready-made phrases are in correct English. You do not risk being accused of plagiarism because of the very generic nature of the phrases.

Recommended reading

– Feak, C.B. and Swales, J.M. (2011) *Creating Contexts: Writing Introductions Across Genres.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

– Glasman-Deal, H. (2010) *Science research writing.* London: Imperial College Press.

– Swales, J.M. (1990) *Genre analysis.* Cambridge: CUP.

– *Swales, J.M. and Feak, C.B. (2012) *Academic writing for graduate students.* 3rd edn. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

– *Wallwork, A. (2016) *English for writing research papers.* 2nd edn. New York: Springer.

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Online resources

- Using English for Academic Purposes (UEFAP): Reports

  http://www.uefap.net/writing/writing-genre/writing-genre-report

- University of Southern California: Organising your Social Sciences Research Paper

  https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide

- Aalto University: Report Structure

  http://sana.aalto.fi/awe/style/reporting/index.html

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