

What It Does, What It Says

This exercise is meant to help you understand how academic writing works. It is useful to remember that most academic writing is written in a standardized way and follows a number of conventions related to form, use of sources, use of language and many other things. Remember too that academic essays are usually built in a similar way, or at least they contain many of the same sections. The Research Report you worked on in groups and handed in before the break is a good example. If you remember, each report had the following:

An introduction that explained the scope of the project and presented a hypotheses/thesis statement.

A section that contextualized the study within a larger body of research, (like your Lit. Review).

A description of the study including detailed explanation of the methods that were used.

A section where the results were presented.

A discussion of the results in relation to a larger body of research.

A conclusion that explained the relevance of the findings, the short-comings of the research and possible future research.

In this exercise we will go through the article I handed out and break it down by figuring out what different paragraphs do and what those paragraphs says.

A "what it says" statement is