Typical Quantitative Article Outline

## Introduction

This is where we describe what is known and agreed upon regarding this topic. This section should lead the reader to an understanding of the problem that this study sought to explore.

## Purpose of the Study

This is a very short paragraph telling explicitly what the study will investigate. Then list your research questions.

## Overview of Related Literature

This is a concise presentation of the literature that is most important to your study. You will want to introduce the literature here that will be referred to in your discussion section (see below). A brief presentation of your theoretical/conceptual framework can fit here or earlier in your manuscript.

## Method

In this section you will likely have several subsections. This most commonly include: Population & Sample, Variables, Instrumentation, Procedures, Data Analysis, and Delimitations

## Results

Your results are presented in subsections. The first subsection is typically a demographic description of your participants. This is followed by a subsection for each of your research questions. You only present major findings here.

## Discussion

This is the section of your article where you explain your results and connect them to the extant literature. Make sure your explanatory claims are supported by your data, your analysis, and/or the literature. Clearly identify if each of the findings from your study (1) supports (confirms) previous findings, (2) extends (helps us better understand the nuances of) previous findings, or (3) are not in agreement with previous studies (calls previous findings into question).

Important Note: In this narrative always try to “lead with YOUR results.” That is, state a finding from your study and then explain how the finding is connected to the literature. Do not write a paragraph about the extant literature and then explain how your study fits with it.

## Limitations of the Study

This can be a subsection of the Discussion section. Here you need to explain how any parameters beyond your control may limit the results, interpretations, or generalizations of your results. Be sure to address issues of generalizability: For whom are these findings representative?

## Conclusions

This section is where you summarize what has been learned from your study. Think of it as completing this prompt: “Because of this study, we now know . . .” To whom can we apply these findings? Conclusions are based on the findings of your study – ***not*** your literature review. You may want to include recommendations for further study here, but the list should be concise and much shorter than one would find in a dissertation.