

Moves in Research Paper Introductions

One way of ‘unpacking’ the construction of an introduction is by looking at the ‘moves’ used in research papers to create a research space (known as the CARS model).

Move 1

Establishing a research territory

- a. by showing that the general research area is important, central, interesting, problematic, or relevant in some way. (optional)
- b. by introducing and reviewing items of previous research in the area.(obligatory)

Move 2

Establishing a niche

- a. by indicating a gap in the previous research, raising a question about it, or extending previous knowledge in some way. (obligatory)

Move 3

Occupying the niche

- a. by outlining purposes or stating the nature of the present research. (obligatory)
- b. by announcing principal findings. (optional)
- c. by indicating the structure of the RP. (optional)