Providing a Solid Structure

How to Publish an Academic Article Workshops
The Society for History Education – The History Teacher
You must provide a solid structure for your article.

- 1) What is structure?
- 2) Two model structures
- 3) Solving structural problems
- 4) To-do list
1) What is structure?

- The structure is the organization of your argument and the evidence for your argument.
- The structure is like the skeleton of the article: invisible but essential.
2) Two model structures – Quantitative

- Section 1 – pyramid structure, general to specific
  - Introduction – broad subject of investigation (often a problem)
  - Review of the literature – literature on the subject
  - Statement of your argument in the context of other works

- Section 2 – Description of study
  - Methods
  - Procedures
  - Materials
  - Context and Setting

- Section 3 – inverse pyramid structure, specific to general
  - Results – report on findings
  - Discussion – comment on the validity of methods and findings
  - Conclusions – place research into the context of other work
2) Two model structures – Qualitative

- I. Introduction
  - Context: who, what, why, where, when
  - Review of scholarly debate
  - Statement of argument
  - Claim for significance
  - Summary of article structure and points

- II. Body
  - Background
  - Analysis 1
    - Subject of analysis 1
    - Subject connected to argument
    - What was discovered
  - Analysis 2
    - Subject of analysis 2
    - Subject connected to argument
    - What was discovered
  - Analysis 3
    - Subject of analysis 3
    - Subject connected to argument
    - What was discovered

- III. Summary

- IV. Conclusion
  - Why this discovery is fascinating
  - Why this article contributes to the scholarly debate
3) Solving structural problems

- Use subheadings
- Summarize often
- Give your argument first followed by evidence related to it
4) To-do list

- 1) Outline a model article
- 2) Outline your article
- 3) Restructure your article