

## Elements of Research Reports

### Cheat Sheet

| Element                                                             | Ideal Location                             | Why Important                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Research aim                                                        | Last paragraph before the methods section. | To allow the reader to know what research deliverable to expect.                                                                                      |
| Dataset description                                                 | Subheading in the methods section          | To allow the reader to understand the context of the research and to promote replicability.                                                           |
| Variables description                                               | Subheading in the methods section          | To facilitate understanding of why each variable was used, how it was coded, and what role it played in the research. Also, to promote replicability. |
| Descriptive analysis                                                | Beginning of results section               | To allow the reader to understand the contents of the analytic dataset.                                                                               |
| Answer to the research aim                                          | Beginning of discussion section            | To allow the reader to know how the results are interpreted in terms of answering the research question.                                              |
| Consistency of results with previous works                          | Discussion section                         | To allow the reader to understand how the results of the study should be synthesized into the background literature.                                  |
| Why the study was needed, and what unique contribution it will make | Introduction section                       | To persuade the reader that this study will actually answer a potentially important research aim that has not already been answered.                  |