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A primary article is the original source of a certain topic or area of study. In biology, a primary source is typically written by the first researcher to have performed an experiment. The article will detail how the researcher conducted his or her experiment and explain the results of the experiment. A primary article will likely be written using terms that are special or specific to the field of study. These articles undergo a peer-review process before being published. The sections typically found in a primary article are an introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references.

An analysis of a primary article is typically referred to as a review article. A review article summarizes and comments on the research that is conducted in a primary article. This type of article can either be based on one or multiple primary articles. Similarly to primary articles, a review article will contain an introduction and conclusion. However, review articles do not usually contain a method or results section because research has not been conducted in conjunction with the publication of this article. A review article will also contain a bibliography.

For an article to be considered a “primary article,” it must first be peer reviewed. In this process the article is examined by a group of the researcher’s peers, other researchers in the same field. The peers evaluate the quality of the article by asking questions such as: “Are the findings original,” “Is the conclusion logical,” and “Is the methodology sound?” After they determine the answers to these questions, they then determine whether to approve or decline the article for publication. Ultimately, however, the decision of publication is left to the editor of the journal the article was submitted to.

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Of the two articles that were given, “Permanent inactivation of Huntington’s disease mutation by personalized allele-specific CRISPR/Cas9” is the primary article. It can be identified as the primary article because it contains sections dedicated to methods and results.

“Huntington’s Disease: Mechanisms of Pathogenesis and Therapeutic Strategies” is a review article. This article can be identified as a review article because of its extensive bibliography and because the information it presents is a summary of information from multiple other sources.