Writing Assignment #1

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**Primary vs Review Articles & The Peer Review Process**

Scholarly research articles fall under two categories: primary and review/secondary. When an original article is written about new research findings, it is considered a primary article. This is an article that is peer-reviewed by experts in the field before publication. These articles are generally divided into the following sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References. The introduction is a basic explanation of the premise of the article. The methods section refers to methods used to conduct the research. The results detail the findings of the research. The discussion section will discuss what the findings mean and contribute to understanding the topic of study. The references section cites the sources used in the study.

Review articles are articles based on a review of a scholarly article or articles. These articles generally summarize a peer-reviewed article and give an analysis of the article. These are considered “secondary sources”. Secondary sources can be easier to read because they are shorter and are not in as much depth. The language is more likely to be general and less technical to be comprehensive to a broader audience, including those new to the field. Secondary sources take the information of an article or series of articles and summarize the information in a way that may be easier to understand or to give a perspective on the study.

The peer-review process is a process by which an article is submitted to be analyzed by experts in the given field. This is an evaluation done by professionals to ensure validity and academic scientific quality before publication. Experts will determine if the findings are significant and original before being considered a factual contribution to the scientific community. Peer-reviewed articles are expected to be accurate so they may be cited and referenced as legitimate works by those studying the subject. This process upholds the standards of scholarly communication and collaboration. Once the article has been approved by experts, it may be added to a scientific journal as a peer-reviewed scholarly article. This process is beneficial to the author to receive constructive feedback from experts. The first step is the editor’s assessment of the articles’ relevance to the journal. They will also check for errors and make sure the article will make a significant contribution to existing literature on the subject. If it passes the editor’s analysis, it will then be sent to at least two or more experts to be reviewed for validity. If the experts have any feedback that calls for resubmission, the article will then be given back to the author for any necessary changes to be reviewed again by the experts. Once the article is approved, it can then be added to the scientific journal.

Upon reading the two articles given, I can determine that the review article is the article on Circulating MicroRNAs in Medicine and the primary article is MicroRNA in diagnosis and therapy monitoring of early-stage triple-negative breast cancer. My first indication that the Circulating MicroRNA article was a review article, is that it says “Review” at the top of the article. The next thing I noticed was the formatting of the articles. The primary article had the necessary sections: Intro, methods, results, etc. The review article was written as a summary of previous research. A primary article will always be an explanation of how the study was done and the findings were obtained, a review article will be summarizing those findings in a secondary source.