Part II of this book examines the scientific paper as a document. Our review of research is based on studies conducted by applied linguists, socioanthropologists, rhetoricians, sociologists and philosophers interested in scientific research articles. All the research presented in the following five chapters is based on the premise that the scientific article is a carefully constructed document that plays an essential role in the creation and dissemination of scientific knowledge. Because the research paper is a constructed document, it can be analyzed in relation to the linguistic and discursive features that are typical of this literacy form. Our understanding of the scientific article and its relationship to the act of producing scientific knowledge mean that we assume that embedded within the scientific article are the underlying epistemological assumptions of science. These assumptions manifest themselves in the particular forms present in this writing act. We also presume that the document that is published in an English-language journal is the result of a negotiation that occurs between the writer–scientist and the journal editors and reviewers. Therefore, in explicating the scientific article in this brief review we will address the linguistic, discursive, epistemological and interactional aspects of this form of writing.