This is an example of a document using the standard article style. You can see that the file begins with a line declaring the style to use and then a specification of the margins. The content of the document is between lines indicating the beginning and the end of the text of the document. The fourth line declares the title of the document. The fifth line declares the authors. The sixth line indicates that the title information should now be formatted. After that we have the text of the article. Except for specifying the margins, the default article style is used with the author really only being concerned with the content of the article.

While it is easiest to just use the default assumptions of the article style, practically everything can be changed; we will talk more about this later in this presentation. Such changes can be made in a global way such that the change is indicated in one place and it takes effect everywhere in the document. For instance, we could declare a different format for section titles once at the top of the document, and all of the section titles would be appropriately changed. Notice that there are default assumptions for the font types and sizes for the various elements of the document, e.g., title, author line, section titles, and text.

The sequences of characters beginning with a backslash and perhaps followed by open and closed braces with other text within the braces are called commands, consisting of control sequences and parameters.

Notice that the system has chosen how to lay out the lines and text and words within lines. Although many of us may not have very discerning eyes in this regard, the system efforts in this area typically are of very high quality.