

HOW TO READ AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE



Success Series

Academic Skills Center

WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE?

POPULAR ARTICLES

- Inform / entertain
- Target general public
- Authored by writers / journalists
- Informal / conversational
- Use common vernacular



SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- Present new research / findings
- Target scholars and professionals
- Authored by experts in field
- Structured style/format
- Use specialized / technical terminology

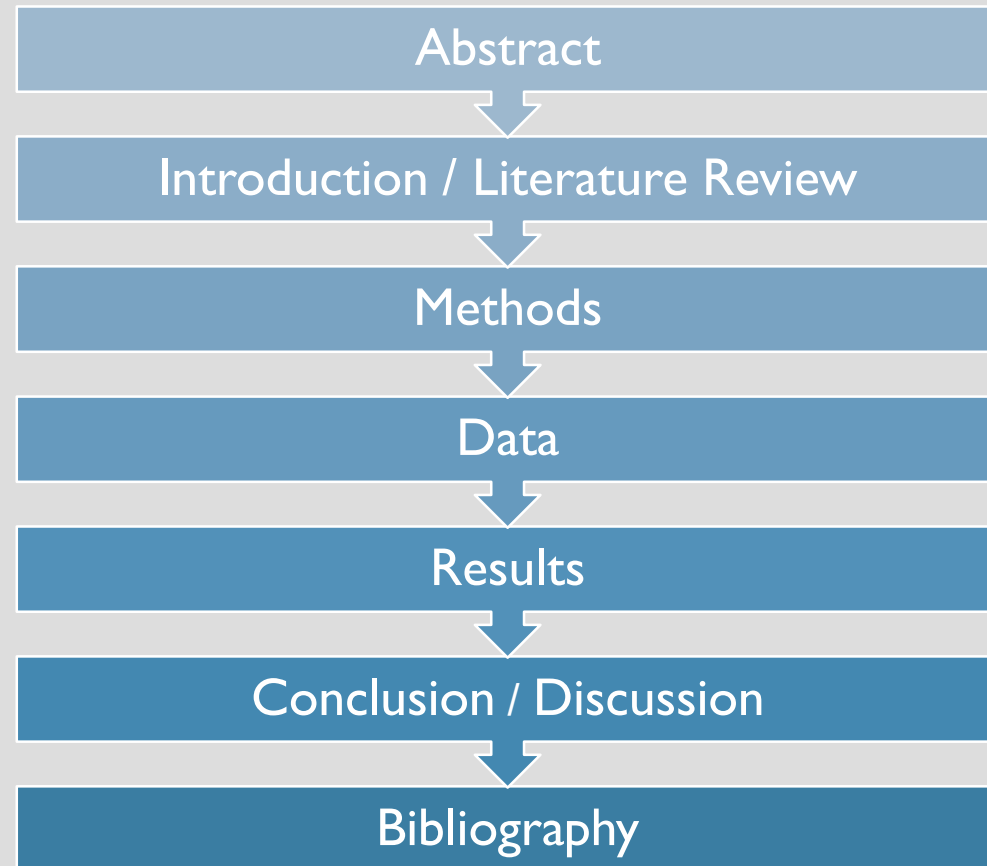


WHY DO I NEED TO READ THEM?

- To learn about new research
- To discover existing research
- To discover existing/new theories
- Because they are peer reviewed



WHAT DOES EACH SECTION MEAN?



ABSTRACT

Tells you what the article is about !!!

ALWAYS READ THE ABSTRACT

INTRO / LIT REVIEW

Introduces topic, what is known about the topic, and what is left to discover

METHODS

Explains how the research was conducted

DATA

Reveals what the researcher found
and how they found it

RESULTS

Author explains the data

CONCLUSION / DISCUSSION

Summary of research and findings,
what it all means, and why it was
important

BIBLIOGRAPHY

List of sources used

HOW DO I READ ARTICLES?

SKIM

DIG IN

ANALYZE

STEP 1: SKIM THE ARTICLE

GET AN OVERVIEW

- Look at framework of paper
- Look through all the headers
- Look at any graphs/images
- Highlight words you don't understand/recognize
- Intro / Conclusion are critical to understanding the paper as a whole

SKIM WITH INTENTION

- What is the point/thesis of article?
- What are the main arguments?
- Why is the paper important?

STEP 2: DIG IN

DETERMINE PURPOSE

- Overview of Topic
- Research Ideas
- Planning for Experiment
- General Knowledge
- Assignment for Courses

READ WITH INTENTION

- Identify the purpose for your reading
- Read beginning & end of each section
- Look up words/phrases don't understand

STEP 3: ANALYZE & REFLECT

TAKE NOTE

- Main Idea
- Argument & Evidence
- Conclusions
- Relate text to other readings/lectures
- Examine what the information means to non-experts
- Add your own responsive comments

DO YOU KNOW....

- Did authors do what they set out to do?
- Are the methods they used sound?
- What are the arguments?
- Are the arguments fluid and logical?
- What assumptions did the researchers make?

SUMMARIZING WHAT YOU READ

After finishing an article take time to write a short summary.

In your own words...

- Describe what the article is about
- What was accomplished through the research
- Why you think it's important
- Your reaction to the article

REFERENCES

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