

# HOW TO READ AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE



Success Series

Academic Skills Center

# WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE?

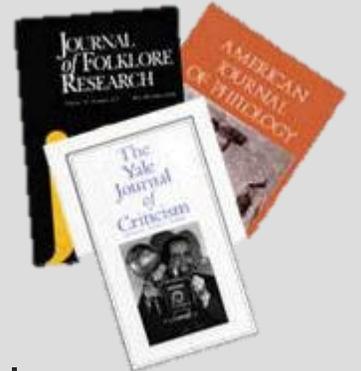
## POPULAR ARTICLES

- 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

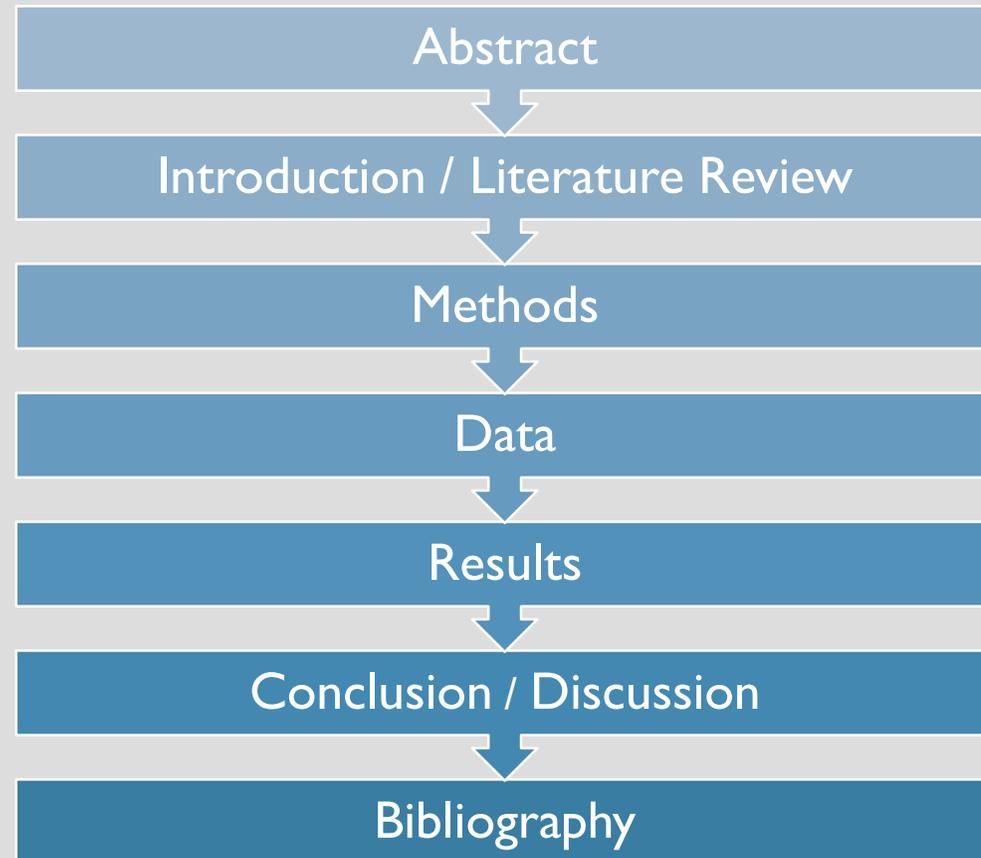


## WHY DO I NEED TO READ THEM?

- 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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