

**How to Read Journal Articles**

**Know the structure of a research article.** A research article will typically contain the following sections: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion, and References.

**Know what each section contains.**

**Abstract** Summary of the key points.

**Introduction** Contains a survey of the relevant background and the hypothesis.

**Methods/Observations/Procedure**

Describes the approach taken in the study.

**Results** Data is summarized in this section.

**Conclusion** Results are summarized in narrative form.

**References** Alphabetical listing of the sources.

**Now you are ready to read.**

Not first page to last page, unless you are really familiar with the topic.

1. Start with the **Abstract**.
2. Read the **Introduction** to get a sense of the issue.
3. Skim the **Conclusion** to see how the study turned out.
4. Now, go back to the middle part for the details. Read the **Methods** section, highlight the important points, and critique the strategies used.
5. Then, read the **Results** section. Don’t get bogged down in the details of either the Methods section or the Results section, but try to get a good idea of what has been observed.
6. Read the **Conclusion** section more closely.
7. Finally, skim the **whole article**, first page to last page. Review for the greatest comprehension.

**Finally, take notes on the article.**

Use a Research Article Summary sheet to write notes about the research article. The summary sheet will provide a quick reference to the study and will help you avoid plagiarism.

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