

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.