

# HOW TO READ A SCHOLARLY ARTICLE

Unlike a book, scholarly articles aren't meant to be read straight through. It's more effective to jump around and focus on the sections most relevant to your purpose.

Here's a suggested order to help you read a scholarly article more efficiently:

1

## Title and Abstract

Start with the article's title. It gives you the main topic or focus.

Next, read the abstract for a brief summary of the study. It gives you the big picture and helps you decide if the article is relevant and worth reading further.

2

## Conclusion

Skip to the end and read the conclusion. It summarizes key findings, notes limitations, and highlights areas for future research.

3

## Introduction & Literature Review

These two sections are sometimes combined. This section introduces the topic, explains the purpose of the research, and shows why it matters.

The literature review section discusses past studies, identifies gaps in the research, and often includes the author's research questions or hypotheses.

4

## Methods

Next, review the methods section. This part explains how the research was conducted—what data was collected, from whom, and how.

Useful for comparing how different studies were conducted.

5

## References

This section lists all sources cited in the article. Review it to ensure they are current and relevant. It is a great place to find relevant resources that you can use too!

6

## Results & Discussion

The results section shows what the researcher found, often using statistics, tables, or figures.

Lastly, read the discussion section. The author explains what the results mean, whether the hypotheses were supported, and how the study adds to existing knowledge.