

How to read/scan a journal article

1. **Title:** First thing is to do is read the title to see what the article is about, if it seems potentially useful move onto the ...



2. **Abstract:** Gives a summary of the article, can read this to quickly reject articles, if abstract looks promising continue to...



3. **Conclusion:** See if it will add to your research/ argument, if it may be useful move to....



4. **References:** Check to see if the sources current?

Did the authors base their work on expertise of other researchers?



5. **Scan** through the article: flip through the pages of the article, see how it is organised, headings, subheadings, look out for statistics in tables or charts and graphs (usually in result section)



6. Go back to **intro:** gives brief summary on previous research done in the area



7. **Closely read** paragraphs/ sections you identified as useful and relevant while scanning, just **skim** the other paragraphs



8. **Annotate:** Highlight and add notes to help remember important ideas, facts and write how you might use this info in your own writing. (Many online libraries have tool such as highlighting, adding comments e.g. adobe)