HOW TO READ A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE

Reading scholarly journal articles can be challenging. This is because journal articles are often written for other academics (e.g. professors or researchers) in a given field rather than for students.

To make the reading process easier follow these simple steps:

1. **Read the Abstract.** An Abstract provides a short description or summary of the article’s main points. Abstracts usually appear at the beginning of an article, and give readers a good overview of what the article is about. As you read the Abstract, ask yourself if this article will help you answer your assignment question. If the article doesn’t seem relevant look for something else.

2. **Read the article’s Introduction and Conclusion/Discussion sections.** These sections will give you an understanding of the article’s main points and conclusions.

3. **Read the body of the article.** Most articles will be broken up into sections. Read all the section headings before reading the content in each section. Some sections may not be relevant to you. Read the sections that are.

4. **Take notes as you read, and try to put the article’s main points into your own words.**

5. **Record the article’s publication details so you’ll be able to reference it correctly if you decide to use it in your assignment.** If the article came from the library’s webpage you can use the Cite tool to obtain a reference:

   ![](Cite_icon.png)