



How to Read a Research Article

Reading a research article can be a daunting task and can leave many readers feeling confused. Although every part of a published research article is important, certain sections include information that is more relevant when writing a research paper.

Section	How to Read
Abstract	What's Included: An abstract acts as a quick summary of the entire article. This includes a quick summary and a conclusion. How to Read: Read the whole abstract. It will tell you if this article will be useful for what you need. If the abstract doesn't seem to fit your article, you can move on in your research
Introduction	What's Included: An introduction defines the important variables and definitions for the paper. It will also give you an idea of the paper's hypothesis. How to Read: The introduction may include many parts but it is important to read this whole section in order to gain a better understanding of the overall goal of the article.
Methods	What's Included: Methods cover the elements that were included when the research study was being conducted. This usually covers the ways in which data was gathered/from whom it was gathered. How to Read: You likely do not need to read the entire methods section. IFocus on the participants included and the method of gathering data.
Results	What's Included: The results present the obtained findings/data as well as various charts. How to Read: You do not need to read much of the results section, as much of it is just a summary of the data that was gathered and is presented as numbers and equations. You should just skim-read this section.
Discussion	What's Included: The discussion explains the data/findings and compares them to the hypothesis made earlier in the paper. This section also shows the conclusions that the researchers made and allows them to elaborate further on their ideas. How to Read: This is one of the most important sections to read. You can get a lot of information from this section and evaluate the findings that were presented throughout the study. This is the best section to find the overall conclusions of the research paper.

Conclusion	What's Included: The conclusion presents the final thoughts of the researchers and acts as an overall summary of the entire research paper. How to Read: You should read this whole section, as it is usually one of the shortest sections and acts as a good summary to refresh you on the ideas that were presented in the whole paper.
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Works Consulted

“GradHacks: A Guide to Reading Research Papers.” *Scientifica*, 2023, www.scientifica.uk.com/neurowire/gradhacks-a-guide-to-reading-research-papers.

“Libguides: Research Process: Reading a Scientific Article.” *LibGuides at Northcentral University*, 2023, resources.nu.edu/researchprocess/readingscientificarticle.

“Parts of a Research Paper.” *Tutlance Learn*, 16 Mar. 2022, tutlance.com/learn/write-research-paper/parts-of-a-research-paper.