



How to read a scholarly article in the humanities

This worksheet walks you through reading a typical article in the humanities.
Use the accompanying guide for support.

1) Abstract

An abstract is a short summary of the article that includes:

- the research question being addressed
- why it is worthwhile to conduct this study
- how the study was conducted
- the main findings of the study

If there is an abstract present, find the above elements and highlight them

2) Introduction

- includes citations and brief descriptions of the main research contributions and knowledge on the topic
- Positions the author's approach to the topic and identifies their unique contributions ("they say this, I say this")

Highlight the first five (5) the citations (footnotes or in-text) you see in the paper.
Highlight where the author positions their approach to the topic.

3) Methods / Methodology

- Identifies how the author gathered the data analyzed in the study
- May discuss limitations of the study

Highlight where in the article the author describes the texts, theories or other primary sources they are analyzing.



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4) Discussion

- Includes analysis of texts and other data the author uses to back up their claims
- Includes the results of their inquiry

Highlight one (1) finding in the body of the article.

5) Conclusion

- Restates the problem addressed in the paper
- Summarizes key takeaways from the research
- Discusses the significance and implications of the research
- Based upon these findings, suggests new approaches for studying the problem

Highlight, when present, the elements above in the concluding section of the article.

6) Works cited / References

- List of research cited in the paper

Choose a citation from this list and go back into the article to find where it was cited.

