

# Article Analysis and Searching Tips

FYS 101: The (Meta) First Year Experience / Prof. Abrahams

## ***Helpful Resource Links:***

[Sarah Ward \(this is my email!\)](#)

[Here's where you can schedule a Zoom meeting on my calendar](#)

[\*\*Your FYS LibGuide\*\*](#)

## ***The Article:***

***Best friends forever?: High school best friendships and the transition to college***

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1475-6811.00045>

***First tip:*** sometimes downloading a .pdf is an easier layout to read and search than the online version of an article.

## ***The Activity:***

You have been assigned a number that corresponds to a research prompt below.

Take 15 minutes to search and answer the questions posed to your group.

As you search, identify where you have success and where there are frustrations.

Did you find it easy to come up with a research question from the prompt? Did you find sources easily? Were they academic or popular? How difficult was it to evaluate whether a resource would be useful?

**Make notes as you go;** after the time is up, each group will have a minute to share your experience and any best practices.

***Remember!*** If at first you don't succeed, try try again!

# 1. Title and Abstract

What is the full title (title and subtitle) of this article?

**Best friends forever?: High school best friendships and the transition to college**

**STOP.** Based only on the title and subtitle, briefly describe what you think this article is going to be about.

**We predict that this article is going to focus on keeping your old relationships while you separate and go off to college.**

Read the abstract. Copy and paste the phrases from the abstract you feel best summarize what argument the authors are making.

“during the first year in college high school best friendships declined in satisfaction, commitment, rewards, and investments”  
“Maintaining the best friendship also appeared to buffer adolescents from social loneliness”

Rewrite the abstract in one to two sentences using language anyone could understand.

This is an article based on a study where they studied how highschool friendships changed during the transitions of college. Some friendships allowed young people to avoid loneliness, whereas other friendships held new college students back as their old relationships became a burden.

Based on the title and abstract, what keywords or phrases would you use to search for related articles?

Maintaining highschool friendships in College, Losing touch with old friends, transition into college.

## 2. Mining the literature review for sources

Read the abstract.

Read the first and second page. There isn't a section called "Literature Review" so how do you know where it begins?

It's a separate section in the article under a bar, uses a different, smaller font.

Pick a source the authors cite in the lit.review and find the full citation in the References section. Paste them here:

In-text citation	"Richey and Richey concluded that adolescents "need the special support offered by a best friend" (p. 538)"
Full Reference	Richey, M., & Richey, H. (1980). The significance of best-friend relationships in adolescence. Psychol-ogy in the Schools, 17, 536–540.

Can you find that source through the [library catalog](#)? Paste link to record here:

<https://butler.on.worldcat.org/search/detail/5154837583?queryString=the%20significance%20of%20best%20friend%20relationships%20in%20adolescence&clusterResults=true&groupVariantRecords=false>

Bonus: Is the source in a database? Can you find ANOTHER source that cites it? Paste that source citation below (APA format):

Yes, because it's in the library catalog and the Wiley Online Library also has it.

Richey, M.H. and Richey, H.W. (1980), The significance of best-friend relationships in adolescence. Psychol. Schs., 17: 536-540.  
[https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6807\(198010\)17:4<536::AID-PITS2310170420>3.0.CO;2-I](https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6807(198010)17:4<536::AID-PITS2310170420>3.0.CO;2-I)

### 3. Understanding the Method

Read the abstract. Now jump to the methods section.

Participants: who did the authors talk to? Whose perspective is reflected in these results?

249 first year college students  
The students perspective

If you repeated this study, would you choose to repeat with the same or a different group? Why?

The same group because it was a large number and it was a diverse group of students who all had different answers

Questionnaires:  
What is a Likert scale?

The way to measure friendship rewards and costs  
9 point scale used in previous research studies

What is the friendship maintenance scale?

4 subscales: supportiveness, positivity, self-disclosure, and interaction

How did you find the answers to the previous two questions?

Read page 4 of the article

## 4. Understanding the Results

Read the article abstract. Jump the results section.

If you don't understand what a p value or a t score represents, can you still understand the general trends?

No, you are only seeing number and they are saying they are both less than, so therefore if you can't figure out what it is saying you can't understand the general trends.

What is the general result of the study?

Logistic regression of friendship, maintenance behavior of self disclosure, interactions, positivity, and supportiveness.

Go to the Discussion section. Based on the first paragraph or two, did your understanding of the results match the discussion? What is something interesting that the researchers found from their study:

No, our understanding did not match the results of the discussion. The researchers found out that most best high school friendships result in just casual friendships because they decline in commitment and overall satisfaction.

## 5. Mining the References

Read the abstract. Jump to the References.

Each person needs to identify one additional sources from the reference list they think would be useful to learn more about this topic. Paste the references below:

Hays, R. (1989). The day to day functioning of closeversus casual friendships. Journal of Social andPersonal Relationships, 6, 21–37
Oswald, D., Clark, E., & Kelly, C. (2001). Friendshipmaintenance: Scale development and dyadic analy-sis. Manuscript submitted for publication.Best friends 195
Rose, S., & Serafica, F. (1986). Keeping and ending casual, close and best friendships. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 11, 96–105

Search those references in the library catalog. Do we have them? Do we subscribe to the journals they are found in?

Yes, we have the journal and article but you have to request through loan.
No, I could not find it
Yes, we have it and subscribe but you have to request it through an inter-library loan.

If yes, go to the works cited sections of those sources and paste one citation you think is related to the topic:


Bonus: If these references are more than 25 years old, can you find newer sources that cite the original article instead?

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## 6. Breaking down an article

Pretend you only have **30 seconds** to determine whether this is a useful article...how would you make that snap decision?

Title and subtitle

Now you have a **minute**, what else are you looking at?

Abstract

Now you have **3 minutes**, what else can you look at?

Skimming the Lit Review and Method

Take a few minutes and mine the article for keywords and phrases you would use to find *additional sources*. Paste the most helpful below:

1. Adolescent friendships
2. Social challenges with friendships
3. Deteriorated friendships after high school
4. Stress of life transitions
5. Proximity and friendships
6. Social loneliness and relationships

Go to [JSTOR](#) and find another source that is related to the topic of the first article using those keywords. Paste the citation of the second article here (APA format)

Kandel, D. B. (1978). Homophily, Selection, and Socialization in Adolescent Friendships. *American Journal of Sociology*, 84(2), 427–436.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2777857>