Scholarly Article Reading Guide

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Scholarly (academic, peer reviewed) articles don’t have to be read from beginning to end like you would a novel.

These questions will help you focus your reading in on the important parts of scholarly articles.

What is your research question?

**Keep this in mind when reading ALL articles so you don’t get distracted.

Write a brief citation of your article so you can find it again. Who is (are) the author(s)? What is the title? What journal is it in? Issue? Year?

Read the abstract. What is the article about?

Is it relevant to your research? If not, go to another article.
Read the introduction. What is the author arguing?

Read the discussion and/or conclusion. What are the results of the research?

Skim the article. Notice heading and subheadings, charts or graphs, and the references.

What other sections are relevant to your research?

Look at the references. Are there any other articles you could use for your research? What are they?