

## How to Read Journal Articles in the Social Sciences: Video Transcript

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Welcome to the video on How to Read Journal Articles in the Social Sciences. By the end of this video you will be able to identify the different parts of a scholarly article and know how to analyze them to determine the information's relevancy to your topic in the Social Sciences.

It is often quicker to read an article out of order to help you decide if it is relevant. Here are some questions to keep in mind when reading. How does this article relate to what I am interested in? What is unique or unusual about the findings in the article? How is the research supported? What is the main focus? And what do I already know about this topic?

Start with the abstract. This gives you a short summary of the contents of the article, typically outlining its purpose and major findings. Next, jump down to the discussion and conclusion sections. The conclusion section summarizes the main points, highlights implications of the research, and suggests possibilities for future research. The discussion evaluates and interprets what was found in the study, relates the findings to the original research question and connects it to previous research. If the article seems like it is worthwhile based on reading these sections you can go back and read the introduction. The introduction outlines the problem being discussed and sets the stage for the rest of the article. In the Social Sciences the introduction will often include or be followed by a literature review. The literature review helps put the entire article and the reasoning for the research into context by outlining previous research on that topic. The body of the article will give you more specific details about the arguments being made. The body of the article can also include other sections which will outline the results, methodology and data collected.

At this point you will have read the majority of the article but it doesn't hurt to re-read it from the beginning to make sure you have a full picture. Finally, take a look at the reference section, this can lead you to more sources that you can use for your research and indicates the depth and breadth of what was researched for the article. Once more, reading the article out of order can make it easier for you to know whether or not it is relevant to you and your research.

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