

Read for what you need

Your guide to academic reading

Academic reading is purposeful and strategic reading. This makes sure you are informed, efficient, and engaged. The key to academic reading is analysing the structure of the text.



Abstract

A brief summary of what the paper is and what you will discover by reading it. Scan this to decide if the document is relevant to your topic and meets the question that you are asking.

Introduction

- **What:** the idea/s the author will present.
- **Why:** the author thinks this subject/topic is important.
- **How:** the author has found that information and how they will share their claims.

Body

Read this to look for the authors analysis and discussion of the subject.

- Present evidence
- Analysis of what has informed the author
- The authors main idea

Methodology

Read this to decide if you think the research undertaken is/was robust and reliable.

- **How:** the author conducted their study.
- **What:** methods they used (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods)
- **What:** are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach
- **Where:** the investigation was conducted

Results

- **What:** findings the author's research discovered

This may include quotes, statistics and other data. This may be presented in graphs, charts or figures.

Discussion

Read this to find out what the author thinks is important from their findings. Read this and decide if you argue or agree with the author's interpretation of the findings.

- **What:** the author thinks the findings mean.
- **How:** the author has analysed and synthesised their findings.

Conclusion

Read this to see what the author did not address and what further questions might be raised.

- **What:** Is the author's main idea?
- **What:** Has the author answered or addressed the questions that you have been considering as you have read?

Reference List / Bibliography

Read this to find additional, relevant reading materials.

- Here you will find the sources the author used.
- A ready-made list of further reading relevant to the topic.

