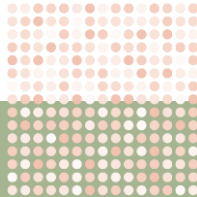




GLION SELF-HELP SERIES

Learning Support



Reading an academic article



Reading academic articles can feel overwhelming — lots of pages, complex language, and dense data. But with the right approach, you can save time and get exactly what you need.



What is an academic article?

An academic article – also called ‘scholarly article’ – is a piece of original research or academic writing, usually peer-reviewed, written by experts for other experts. They are found in academic journals (e.g., *International Journal of Hospitality Management*).



Why read them?

- To provide credible, research-based evidence
- To help you understand the current debates and trends in your field
- To show you methods and data you can use in your own work
- To strengthen your assignments and arguments





Step-by-step: how to read an academic article

1 Start with the abstract

- The abstract is a summary of the whole article.
- Ask: Is this relevant to my research question?
- If not, save time and move on!

2 Skim the structure

- Most articles follow the *IMRaD* format:
 - **Introduction** → What's the research question? Why does it matter?
 - **Methods** → How was the study done?
 - **Results** → What did they find?
and
 - **Discussion** → What do the results mean?

3 Read strategically

- Focus on **Introduction and Conclusion** for key arguments
- Look at **headings, subheadings, and visuals** (tables, charts) to understand structure
- Don't try to understand every word — look for main ideas

4 Dive deeper when needed

- **Methods**: Check if the study design is appropriate
- **Results**: Focus on patterns, not every number
- **Discussion**: See how the findings connect to the bigger picture

5 Take notes as you go

- Write down the main argument in 1–2 sentences
- Note key evidence or examples
- Record the APA 7th citation immediately (saves time later!)



Example of note-taking

Article Title: *Sustainable practices in boutique hotels: A customer perspective (Nguyen & Lee, 2022)*

Abstract: *Sustainability increases guest loyalty*

Introduction: *Sets the problem — sustainability is a growing trend*

Methods: *Survey of 450 guests in 10 boutique hotels*

Results: *Guests value visible sustainability efforts*

Discussion: *Sustainability practices are good for both business and the environment*



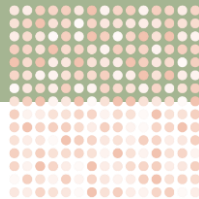
More information on how to read an academic article on the Library website here:



Tips & Tricks

- Read with a purpose: Always connect reading back to your research question
- Use a “three-pass” method: Skim → Read carefully → Deep dive if relevant
- Highlight sparingly: Focus on key terms, results, or quotes
- Don’t get stuck on jargon: Look up unfamiliar terms later
- Use concept mapping or summary tables to organize your notes across multiple articles





Contact us

THE LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM

learningsupport@glion.edu

THE LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

library@glion.edu