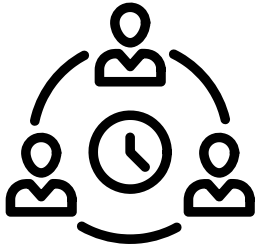


# READING FOR WRITING STYLE

Learn how to read a paper in your field to get a better idea for how to write your research paper.

Stylistic rules and conventions vary greatly across academic disciplines. Before you start writing your paper, find a few representative articles in your desired field to analyze. Ask yourself the following questions to make sure your own writing aligns with disciplinary conventions.

1



## Person and tense

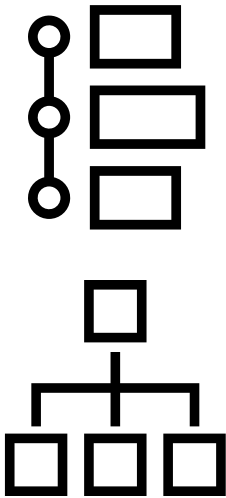
- What tense does the author use? Past, present, or future?  
Does it change in different sections of the paper?

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- What person does the author write in?

---

2



## Organization

- Is the paper organized thematically? Chronologically?

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- Does the paper have an abstract? Y / N
- Does the paper have a formal introduction section?  
Y / N

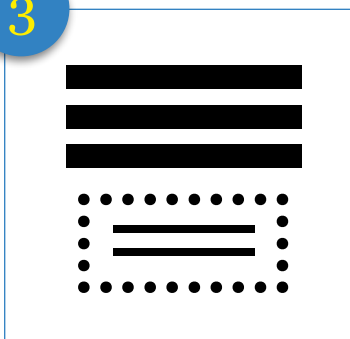
- Does the paper have a formal conclusion section?  
Y / N

- Does the paper use formal section headings?  
Y / N

- If not, how does the author indicate the separation between sections?

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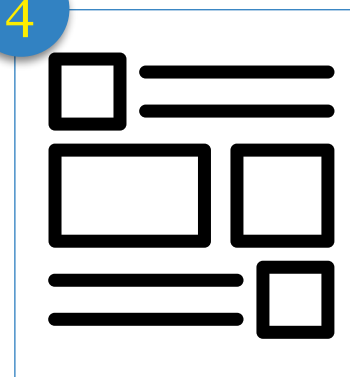
3



## Evidence

- What types of evidence does the article use?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How does the article incorporate this evidence? For example, does it summarize sources or use direct quotation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If the article uses direct quotations, are these block or single-word quotations?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4



## Citations

- How densely populated are the citations in the paper (1-5 citations per paragraph... etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What are some commonly used verbs/language to describe sources, e.g. "observe," "argues," "suggested"... etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What citation format does the author use?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## What's next?

☐ Be sure to repeat this process with one or two more papers in the field to confirm that the profile you have gathered is representative.

☐ Now you are ready to start writing your paper!

☐ For more research tips check out our website:  
[uclalibrary.github.io/research-tips](https://uclalibrary.github.io/research-tips)

☐ Come visit us at one of our many library locations or the UCLA Writing Center and get one-on-one research and writing assistance tailored to your topic and questions.