

Guideline for Sample essay presentation

It's helpful to skim the different sections of an article – the title, abstract, subheadings, diagrams, graphs, tables, reference list - to get an idea of its purpose and how it might be useful to the essay that you're writing.

Discuss the questions and make a note of your answers in relation to the source

1. The title

What does the title suggest about the topic or focus of the article?

2. The Abstract

What key information does it contain?

3. Subheadings

What information do you expect to find under each section? Which areas might be useful for your essay?

4. Diagrams, graphs, tables

How might these be helpful?

5. Reference list

What do you learn about the topic by looking at the reference list?

How can you use the reference list to help you gain more understanding of the topic?

Take a little more time to skim the article.

Try reading the first couple of lines of each paragraph and make a note in the margins of the main point – use keywords or phrases. Don't be tempted to read everything carefully yet.

Notes on Source

Take notes on the purpose, key ideas and concepts, and useful details.

Purpose of the article

What does the author want to argue? Highlight areas in the text that indicate this.

Key ideas or concepts

What are some of the keywords we need to understand?

Useful details that explain or illustrate the key ideas

How can you use this article in your essay?

Quotes, definitions, theory, background information?