

# *Journal Club*

## How to read research articles

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Reading  
articles is  
*difficult.*

# Goals

Demystify articles

Why to read them

How to read them

How to read them  
critically

# What we'll do

Read and summarize  
articles about a topic  
of your interest.

# Why read articles?

For your studies

For your professional life

Direct access to information

# What is an article?

Written by experts for experts

Published in a **peer-reviewed journal**

Meant to be 'final'

# Research articles

Answering **research question**

Argument based on evidence (= data)

testing **hypotheses**

# Other article types

Reviews & Meta-analyses

Editorials, Commentaries & Letters

# From idea to article

Journals as gatekeepers

Editorial selection & peer-review

Review, rebuttal, resubmission, repeat...



# Why is reading articles difficult?

Concise

Specialized vocabulary and tone

Intentionally unexciting

Assuming background knowledge

Poorly written

# How to read articles?

# Read for information

## 3 levels of reading.

1. Quickly determine if it's relevant at all
2. Read more closely
3. Replicate in your head

## Read actively.

Read with specific questions in mind

Highlight & take notes

Discuss

# Types of Studies

Case-studies

Correlational

Experimental

Observational

# Ask Questions

**P**

Population / patient / problem

**I**

Intervention / investigated condition

**C**

Comparison / control

**O**

Outcome

**T**

Time frame

# Structure

**Introduction**

**Methods**

**Results**

**Discussion**



# Structure

Title page

Abstract

**Introduction**

**Methods**

**Results**

**Discussion**

References

Supplementals



# Structure

## Title page

- Gist of the paper
- Journal, year, type
- Authors and affiliations
- Funding
- conflicts of interest



# Structure

Title page

**Abstract**

- **the 'short short' version**
- What was done and what was found

# Structure

Title page

Abstract

**Introduction**

- **What they did & why they did it**
- Motivation and importance
- What is known
- Research questions, hypotheses, predictions

# Structure

Title page

Abstract

Introduction

**Methods**

- **How they did it**
- Participants
- How was data recorded
- Operationalization of research question
- Statistical approach

# Structure

Title page

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

**Results**

- **What they found**
- Detailed description of sample
- Uncommented presentation of all results
- Figures and Tables

# Structure

Title page

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

Results

**Discussion**

- **What it means**
- Summarize results
- Did the data support the hypotheses?
- Contextualize results
- Which questions remain unanswered?

# Structure

Title page

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

**References**

- Acknowledging sources

# Structure

Title page

- Additional analyses

Abstract

- Material

Introduction

- Raw data

Methods

Results

Discussion

References

**Supplementals**

# Reading strategies

Get the gist

Understand the “what” and “why”

Go straight to the results (especially figures and tables)

Read the discussion



**Your turn!**