

Dissection of a Research Article

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Abstract

A guide to reading and extracting key points from research articles. This protocol will suit the purposes of the assignments to summarize the readings for the class. Aim for roughly one page of typed text.

Imagine presenting the contents of your summary (excluding the NOTES/BACKGROUND section) in 5 minutes. In other words, try to strike a middle ground between reading too little to be able to grasp the motivation/findings and reading too much and getting bogged down in the detailed minutiae.

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Protocol

WHY?

Step 1.

For Example:

- Why were the researchers inspired to carry out this study?
- What was the logical rationale for conducting this study?
- What did they seek to answer?
- What were the reserach questions?

WHAT?

Step 2.

For Example:

- What were the primary results?
- What conclusions were drawn from these results?

- What new knowledge was acquired?
- What product was generated?

HOW?

Step 3.

For example:

- What was the approach to acquiring these results?
- What methods were used?
- What was the sample size?

SO WHAT?

Step 4.

For example:

- What does this for the field moving forward?
- What are the one key advancements?

QUESTIONS

Step 5.

For example:

- What questions do you have that hindered your ability to understand the rationale of the study?
- What questions do you have that hindered your ability to understand the conclusions of the study?

NOTES/BACKGROUND SECTION

Step 6.

Jot down new knowledge that you picked up from reading this study that does not fall in the WHY? WHAT? HOW? SO WHAT? categories.