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# **Article Reading Practice**

Undergraduate Research Methods in Psychology

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Quinton Quagliano, M.S., C.S.P

Department of Psychology

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# 1 Purpose

Research articles tend to be unfortunately dense and difficult to read.

## 2 Reading Research

### 2.1 The Usual Sections (in Empirical Articles)

- \_\_\_\_\_ : The publicly available summary of the entire paper
- \_\_\_\_\_ : The literature review and scaffolding towards the present research question
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Contains all relevant information about procedures and measures
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Often the results of statistical analyses
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Connecting the results to the practical implications of the findings and the existing literature review
- \_\_\_\_\_ : An alphabetical list of all the cited resources throughout the paper
- These sections may be named slightly different depending on what \_\_\_\_\_ they are published in.

### 2.2 What are you Looking For?

*I like to work backwards:*

- What conclusions does the author(s) make? What implications does this have and what limitations do they note (Abstract and Discussion)
  - What is the current state of the literature, and what “gap” was the author trying to address? What was the core hypothesis of the study? (Introduction)
  - Given the nature of the hypothesis, were the methods reasonable and ethical? Did they use ideal measures to capture the construct? What measurements were collected, and how was the planned analysis appropriate to this scenario? (Methods)
  - Did they report relevant results to support the research? Were the statistics properly calculated and interpreted? (Results)
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- Connect the results and discussion, were those final conclusions in line with what was reported in the results? (Between Discussion and Results)

*In simple, do the conclusions have good, strong evidence to back them up? More extreme conclusions require more powerful evidence!*

- Consider an article with the theory-data-hypothesis framework: what is the theory? What is the hypothesis? What is the data concluding?
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