

Most scholarly articles are organized the same way and using this outlined handout can help readers understand the different pieces of an article. You should take notes as you read the article to decide if this text will be useful to you when writing your paper. This handout covers each section of scholarly articles (note: not all these sections can be used with every article). Start first by creating a citation on the lines below in the required format (APA, MLA, etc.)

Citation: For more information on citations check out our MLA or APA guides.

Abstract: An abstract is a brief summary of the article’s findings and results and is the first section of a scholarly article. Please read the abstract and take notes below.

Summary of related research: This section of a scholarly article is also known as “literature review.” Research articles often begin with a summary of similar and related research that has been previously published. Read the literature review and take notes below.

Methodology: This section is typically only found in articles that report research. This is where the author describes their research. This section will describe the purpose, population studied, procedures, and sample sizes used. Read the methodology and take notes below.

Results: Results and findings of the research can be found in this section. Read this section and take notes below.

Author's suggestions, discussion, conclusions: What are the author's next steps? What did you learn from this article? Why is it relevant to you and your paper? Create a summary of your findings and conclusions after reading the article carefully.

I will include this article in my paper because...

I will not use this article in my paper because...
