

Main Types of Sources

↳ Textbook

- ↳ Not to Be Underestimated When They Apply
- ↳ But Usually Too Basic and Out-of-Date
- ↳ And Not Always Free Enough of Bias

↳ Monograph

- ↳ One Person/Team's Treatise on an Area
- ↳ Good for Long Views of a Specific Area
 - ↳ When Good They're Great
 - ↳ When Not They're More Trouble Than They're Worth

↳ Chapter in Edited Book

- ↳ Usually Gives a Bigger Picture of an Area
- ↳ Or Summarizes a Team's Research
- ↳ Good for Tying Ideas Together & Finding Specific Sources to Go to for More

↳ Journal Article

- ↳ Addresses a Discrete Issue
- ↳ Usually an Empirical Study
- ↳ Good but Limited Generalizability
- ↳ Note: Some Articles *Do* Give a Broader View and a Stronger Literature Review
 - ↳ These Are Usually Great When They Apply

↳ Conference Proceeding, Dissertation, Book Review

- ↳ Not Good for Much—Wait Until It's Been Vetted by a Journal

Anatomy of a Typical Journal Article

↳ Abstract

- ↳ Concisely Summarizes Article

↳ Key Words

- ↳ Typical Search Terms Suggested by the Author

↳ Introduction

1. Reviews Area
2. Presents Gap to Fill/Problem to Address
3. Suggests Way(s) of Addressing Problem
4. States Hypothesis

- ↳ And May Also Present:

- ↳ General Procedure

- ↳ Predicted Results

↳ Methods

- ↳ Subjects/Participants

- ↳ Describes Who Participated in Study

- ↳ Materials

- ↳ Describes Instruments, "Manipulatives," etc.

- ↳ Method/Procedure

- ↳ Describes What Was Done

- ↳ May Contain Tables Diagramming Procedure

↳ Results

- ↳ Describes the Outcome

- ↳ Can Speak to Hypothesis But Should Stick *Only* to the Facts

 - ↳ Little or No Interpretation

- ↳ Likely Contains Figures or Tables

↳ Discussion

1. Relates Outcomes to Hypothesis

2. Discusses Implications for Overall Field

3. Should Also Describe Holes/Limitations of Study

How I Read an Article

↳ Depends on What I'm Reading It for

↳ For background:

- ↳ Read Introduction, Making Notes of Citations They Found Useful
- ↳ Skim Methods and Results (Just in Case They're Useful and to Get a Sense of How Competent I Feel They Are)
- ↳ Based on What Is in the Methods/Results, Read or Don't Read Discussion for More about the Field

↳ For Use of the Study to Advance the Field

- ↳ Read Abstract to Get Overall Bearings
- ↳ Read Introduction Mostly for Last Parts about the Study
- ↳ Pay Close Attention to Methods
- ↳ Look at Tables & Figures Before Reading Results
 - ↳ Try to Draw My Own Conclusions
- ↳ Then See What Conclusions Authors Find
 - ↳ And Rely on Them to Explain the Tables & Figures
- ↳ Read Over Statistics in Results to Confirm What I and They Gleaned from Tables & Figures
- ↳ Stop, Form My Own Opinions, *Then*
- ↳ Read Discussion
 - ↳ May Be Good to Start with Limitations Part at End
 - ↳ Then Move on to How They Feel It Moves the Field
 - ↳ Sometimes Great, Sometimes Not
 - ↳ Definitely Go with What You Think