How to Read a Scholarly Journal Article in the Social Sciences

Abstract

What the research is about
- Orientation to topic/rationale for study
- What the research found; results
- Implications and recommendations

Introduction

Includes a review of previous research (also known as the “literature review”). This diagram provides an outline of the sequence of information presented in the introduction.

Method (or Methodology)

Describes the methods used in the research.

Results

Describes the results found.

Discussion

Interpretation of what the results actually mean in terms of the field and the original research question or hypothesis.

Conclusion, Implications or Summary

This section provides a forum for a holistic discussion of the meaning and implications of the research. It also details the implications of the research and make recommendations about further research or policy and practice in the relevant area. Read the conclusion or general discussion section for an understanding of the key issues resulting from the research.