

## 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- But Usually Too Basic and Out-of-Date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