



ERASMUS+



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Tool nr.123 - material

Developed by: University of Tartu

Name of the material

## How to read academic articles

Sources

### Main source:

Art of reading a journal article: Methodically and effectively. [Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology](#). 2013 Jan-Apr; 17(1): 65–70.

Purpose of the material

Reading a research article can be a frustrating experience, especially for the one who has not mastered the art of reading scientific literature. Given material is to help “demystify” the process of making sense of research papers.

Material

The first step for a reader is to choose a right article for reading, depending on one's individual requirement. A good title will inform the potential reader a great deal about the study to decide whether to go ahead with the paper or dismiss it.

Most scientific articles are organized as follows:

- Title: Topic and information about the authors.
- Abstract: Brief overview of the article.
- Introduction: Background information and statement of the research hypothesis.
- Methods: Details of how the study was conducted, procedures followed, instruments used and variables measured.
- Results: All the data of the study along with figures, tables and/or graphs.
- Discussion: The interpretation of the results and implications of the study.
- References/Bibliography: Citations of sources from where the information was obtained.

1. The cardinal rule is: Never start reading an article from the beginning to the end. It is better to begin by identifying the conclusions of the study by reading the title and the abstract. If the article does not have an abstract, read the conclusions or the summary at the end of the article first.

2. After reading the abstract or conclusions, if the reader deems it is interesting or



useful, then the entire article can be read.

3. The abstract can be read in a systematic way by answering certain fundamental questions like what was the study about, why and how was the study conducted, the results and their inferences.
4. Though conclusion part had been read at the beginning, it is prudent to read it again at the end to confirm whether what we had inferred initially is correct. If the conclusion had not made sense earlier, it may make sense after having perused through the entire article.

**How you can use this material in your practice**

You can use the material in reading academic articles on educational topic of your interest and discuss findings in the PLC.

**Debrief - reflection and metacognition**

**Feedback on the use of the tool**