

Paper Reading and Structure

Goals:

1. Examine the structure of primary literature in order to understand what function each part of a paper serves.
2. Systemize and practice reading primary literature for content

Instructions:

Part A- Reading for structure

1. While reading the paper don't worry about the content. Just focus on ***what information is presented in each section of the paper.***
2. Read the title and abstract. List the type of information available in the abstract in order of appearance.
3. Read the introduction- what type of information is available there?
4. As you read each section, note the types of information and how it is presented. For each section, make a list or summarize what info is presented.
5. Review your lists of information available in each section. Does this order of presenting the data make sense to you?
6. Bring your lists back to class for discussion.

Part B- Reading for content

As part of a "W" course, you are required to perform an ungraded writing assignment in the first week of class. To satisfy this requirement, write a 1-pg summary of your paper using the reading guide below.

Use the KENSHU method (paper on website) as your reading guide.

My two cents on paper reading:

1. Read the title and abstract. Respond to the following questions
 - a. What topic is this paper about?
 - b. What was the purpose of the experiment?
 - c. What did they find?
 - d. What was the conclusion?

This is the point where you decide if it is worth your time to read more of the paper. And decide what you want to get out of reading it. If you are looking for something specific (like they method they used to analyze X) you might skip to that section. For now, pretend this is a very exciting paper that you want to read closely!

2. Skim over the paper. Examine the figures and tables. Read the figure captions. Think about the story the authors are about to tell you.
3. Read the introduction. After each paragraph, write a sentence or two summarizing the paragraph.
4. Read through each section. Pause after each paragraph to digest the information. And write a summary sentence.
5. Examine figures as you go along. Do they show what the author asserts? Do the data seem to make sense? Are the author's assertions logical?
6. What are the conclusions of the paper. Do they follow logically from the data presented?
7. What do they suggest doing next? What would you propose to do next if you were the author?
8. Now, review the paper as a whole and write a few sentences summarizing the paper.