



Reading Academic Articles

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1. Reading

a. What is it saying?

2. Analyzing

a. How is it saying it?

3. Contextualizing

a. How does it compare to what others are saying?



Reading

“Afrocentricity: An Emerging Paradigm in Social Work Practice,” by Jerome H. Schiele.

Skim through the article. What type of article is this?

- Original research
- Review article
- Clinical case study
- Clinical trial
- Perspective, opinion, commentary



Reading

“Afrocentricity: An Emerging Paradigm in Social Work Practice,” by Jerome H. Schiele.

Read through the introduction.

- What is the main topic / issue / problem at hand?
- What is the main argument?
- What else has been done in this area?



Analyzing

- How is the main argument defended?
- What is the provided evidence for the main argument? Is it enough to make it convincing?
- What might have been left out of the paper? How could it have been stronger?
- If you could continue this argument / research what would you investigate and write about?

Contextualizing

- What angle does the paper have?
- Are there any competing ideas?
- What came before it?
- What would come after it?





Tips for Reading and Understanding Articles

- Write a brief summary **in your own words** for each section. (If dense, for each paragraph.)
- Read together, understand together: form a reading group, discuss main ideas from articles.
- Figure out how this article fits into the field. Is it a majority / representative view from a popular researcher? Is it a fringe view?
- Make a list of the article's strengths and weaknesses. (Requires an understanding of methodology and the literature...)
- Draw a simple picture or flowchart of the information.
- Find out a system of organizing and note-taking that works for you:
 - Pen and paper
 - Online notes
 - Notes in PDFs:
<https://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf-reader/>
- Collect relevant takeaways / summaries / quotes into a separate document (and make a note of where quotes are from!).