
English 12 - How To Read an Academic Paper

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an Academic Paper

Donald Trump's Election: Was it economics or culture?

In pairs, read the article and answer the following:

- a. What does the author claim in this article?
 - b. What three things does he use to support his claim?
 - c. Do you think this is a scholarly source? Why or why not?
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How to Read an Academic Paper - First Pass

Read the abstract, introduction, conclusion, section headings, tables and graphs/diagrams.

Underline any key words and phrases you don't understand to look up later.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the claim or thesis of this paper?
 - What are the main arguments of the paper?
 - Why is this paper important?
 - How does it contribute to my field of study?
 - Write down any other questions you might have
 - At the end of the first pass, try to summarize the paper in a sentence or two
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Second pass: Time to dig in

- Pay close attention to the beginning and end of each major section
 - Pay attention to any highlighted sections from the first pass and look up any words or phrases you still don't understand
 - Try to write down the answers to any questions you wrote down earlier
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Third pass: Tie it all together

- You should understand the paper at this point
 - Time for reflection and analysis
 - Annotate the arguments, evidence and conclusions
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Third pass: Tie it all together

With a partner, answer the following questions:

- Did the authors do what they set out to do?
 - Are the methods they used sound?
 - Are their arguments fluid and logical?
 - What assumptions did they make?
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Final thoughts

What makes this paper
better than the Trump
article?
