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Engaging with Literature


Reading before action

Engaging with literature

Overview of relevant literature - Based on your research topic

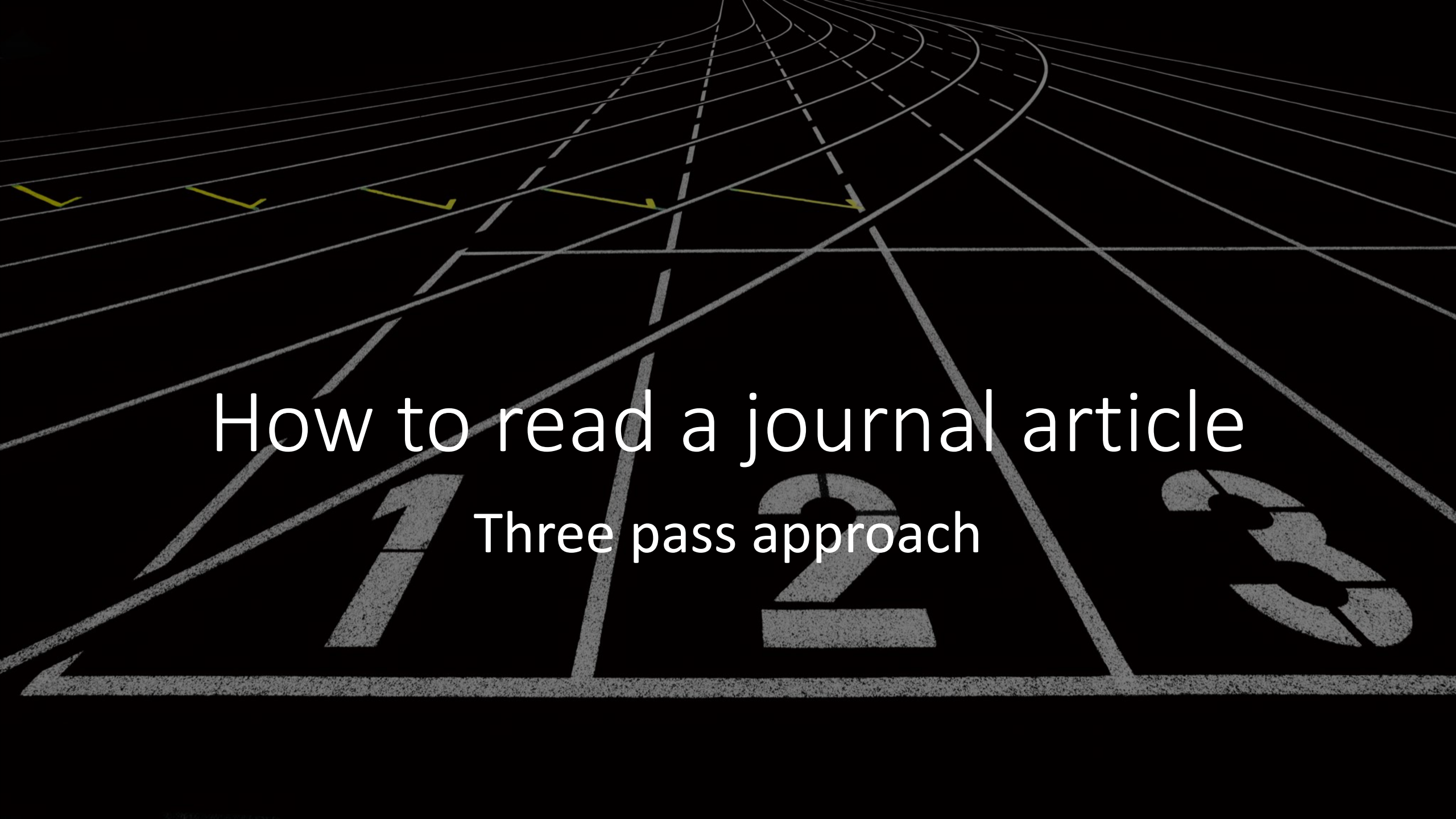
This should consist of a discussion of literature that relates to your study.

How has this literature led you to form your research question?
Do you hope to fill a gap in the current literature?
Are you taking the research of another author further within your class context?

Level 6	FAIL	MARGINAL FAIL	SATISFACTORY (3rd / Pass)	GOOD (2.2 / Pass)	VERY GOOD (2.1 / Merit)	EXCELLENT (1st / Distinction)	EXCEPTIONAL (1st / Distinction)
Category	**0-29%**	**30-39%**	**40-49%**	**50-59%**	**60-69%**	**70-84%**	**85-100%**
Engagement with literature (including reading, referencing, academic conventions and academic honesty)	Little or no evidence of reading and/or reliance on inappropriate sources. Views and findings mostly unsupported and non-authoritative. Referencing conventions used incoherently or largely absent.	Poor engagement with essential reading. No evidence of wider reading. Reliance on inappropriate sources, and/or indiscriminate use of sources. Heavily reliant on information gained through class contact. Inconsistent and weak use of referencing.	Engagement with a limited range of mostly relevant and credible sources. Some omissions and minor errors. Referencing conventions evident though not always applied accurately or consistently.	Engagement with an appropriate range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Some over-reliance on texts. Referencing may show minor inaccuracies or inconsistencies.	Engagement with a wide range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Selection of relevant and credible sources. Very good use of referencing, with no/very few inaccuracies or inconsistencies.	Engagement with an extensive range of relevant and credible literature, informed by the latest research. Consistently accurate application of referencing.	Exceptional engagement with an extensive range of relevant and credible literature, informed by the latest research. High-level referencing skills consistently and professionally applied.

Critical thinking when reading





How to read a journal article

Three pass approach

Pass One: Skim/scan (5-10 mins)



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- Carefully read title, abstract and introduction
- Read section and sub-section headings (ignore everything else)
- Read conclusion
- Check references

Pass Two: Dig deeper (approx. 1 hour)


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- Read with greater care but ignore things like proofs at this stage
- Mark relevant references for future reading
- You should be able to summarise the main ideas

Decisions:

- Set the paper aside
- Return to it later
- Persevere



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Third Pass: Analysis

- Identify and challenge every assumption
- You should be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of the article/study.



Analysing a Journal Article

Analyzing a Journal Article Include page numbers to indicate where you found the answer for each question.	
Article title:	
Step 1: What is the objective of this study?	
a. Write down the exact statement in which the authors describe what they were testing. This may be provided as a purpose statement or a hypothesis. Include quotation marks around the exact wording.	
b. Describe the purpose of the study, as you understand it, in your own words.	
c. What is the gap in the previous research that the authors are trying to fill by conducting this study?	
Step 2: What are the major findings of the study?	
a. What are the authors' major conclusions or findings? Include quotation marks if using exact wording.	
b. Summarize the conclusions, as you understand them, in your own words.	
Step 3: How did the authors test their hypothesis?	
a. Briefly summarize the main steps or measurements that the authors used in their methods. May include type of study (survey, observation, etc.), how, where and when data was gathered, study population.	
b. How did the authors analyze their data? What test(s) did they use?	

Step 4: How reliable are the results?	
a. Do the authors suggest any problems or limitations with their methodology? Do you see any problems or limitations with their methodology?	
b. Do the conclusions made by the author make sense to you? Are the conclusions too broad or too narrow based on what was actually done in the study?	
Step 5: What is the importance of this research study?	
a. Write (in your own words) the significant contributions of the research in this article as reported by the authors.	
b. How has this article changed your way of thinking about the topic?	
c. Re-read your notes and explain why you think this is a strong/weak scientific article/study.	
Step 6: How does this study relate to other research in this field?	
a. What prior research do the authors discuss? Look at the reference list. What are the topics/themes of the resources cited?	
b. What are the next steps or future directions for this research as described by the authors?	
c. What questions about this topic do you have after reading this article?	

Adapted from

- Student Worksheet: Analyzing a Journal Article. https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/student_worksheet.pdf. University of Guelph. 2013