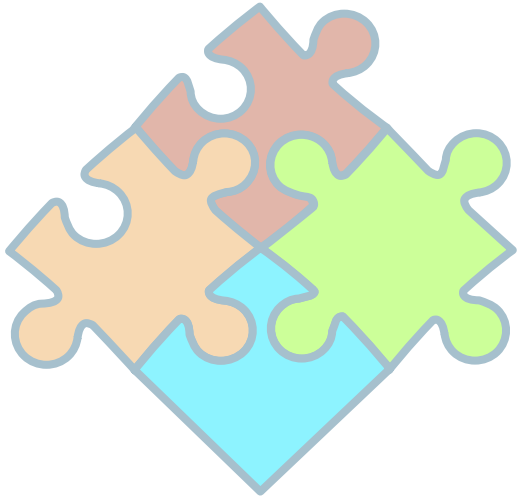
Academic and Digital Skills

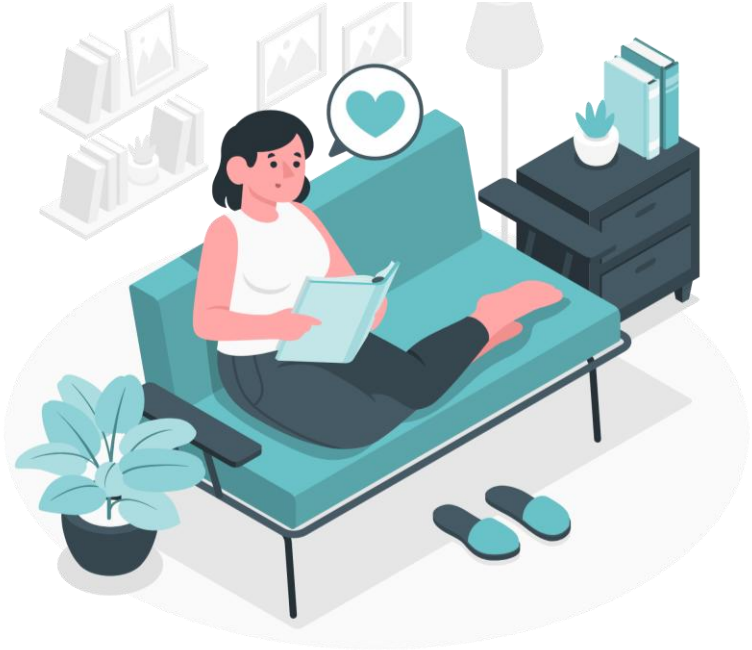


Reading, Summarising and Evaluating

Stacey Coleman

Lecture outline

- Understanding what an author is trying to say
- Identifying key arguments and evidence
- Writing effective summaries
- Comparing information sources

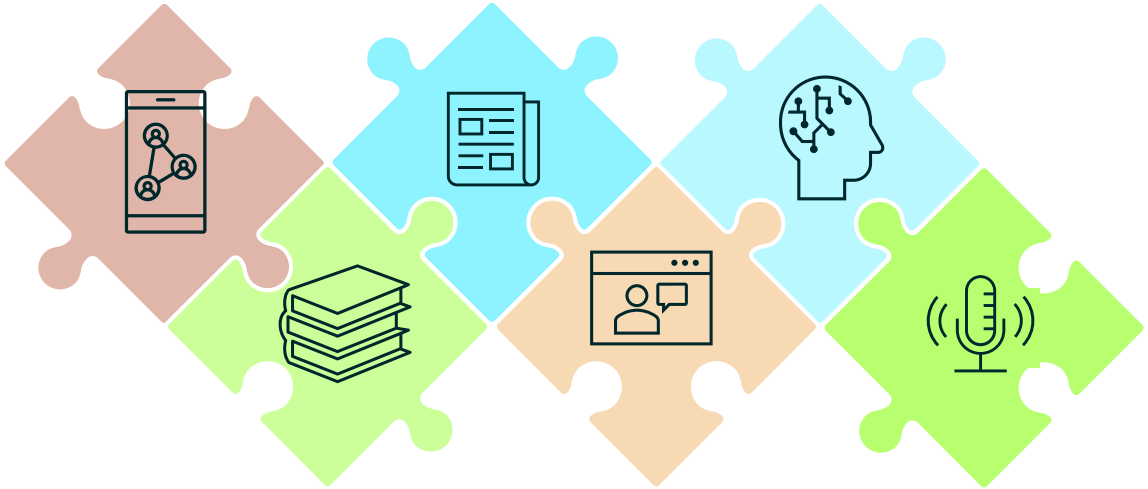


Every day we encounter:

News articles

AI generated content

Social media



Podcasts

Academic sources

Blogs

Not all information we encounter is useful or trustworthy



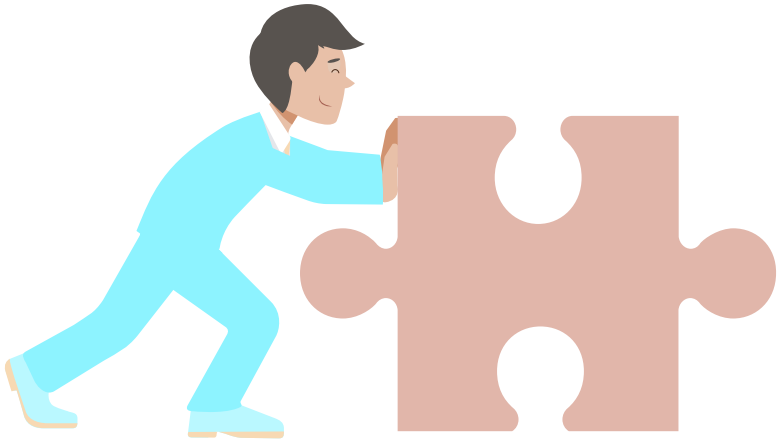
University study requires you to:

- Identify important information
- Ignore unnecessary details
- Summarise effectively
- Think critically about sources

Can information be understood without being evaluated?

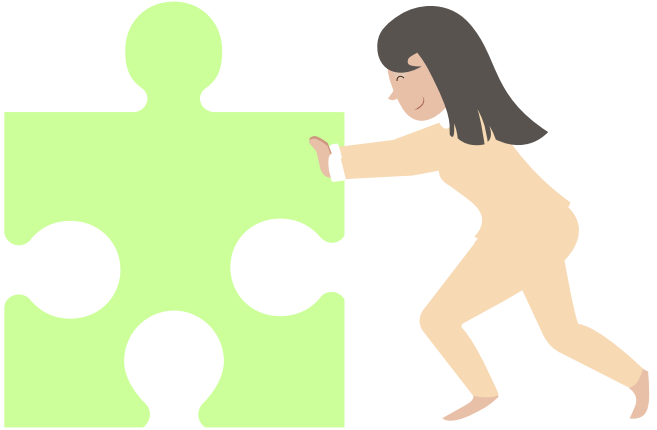
TASK: What do you remember?

01



Read the paragraph on the next slide (the slide will move on after 2 minutes!)

02



Write down everything you can remember.

Memory Paragraph

Are Children Born Knowing Their Gender?

Research suggests that children begin recognising gender categories from a very young age. By around two years old, many children can identify themselves and others as boys or girls. As they grow, they learn gender-related behaviours through family interactions, schools, media influences and observations of people around them. Psychologists have proposed several explanations for gender development. Social learning theory suggests children imitate behaviours that are rewarded. Cognitive theories argue that children actively construct understanding about gender as their thinking develops. More recent perspectives suggest that both biological and environmental influences contribute to gender development. Researchers therefore view gender development as a complex process shaped by multiple interacting factors rather than a single cause.

(Approx. 145 words)

Debrief Discussion

What information did you remember?

What information did you forget?

What did you think was most important?

Did everyone remember the same things?

Memory Paragraph

Are Children Born Knowing Their Gender?

Research suggests that children begin recognising gender categories from a very young age. By around two years old, many children can identify themselves and others as boys or girls. As they grow, they learn gender-related behaviours through family interactions, schools, media influences and observations of people around them. Psychologists have proposed several explanations for gender development. Social learning theory suggests children imitate behaviours that are rewarded. Cognitive theories argue that children actively construct understanding about gender as their thinking develops. More recent perspectives suggest that both biological and environmental influences contribute to gender development. Researchers therefore view gender development as a complex process shaped by multiple interacting factors rather than a single cause.

(Approx. 145 words)

Comparing Sources
Two Articles, Same Topic

Article A

The Psychologist
Unboxing childhood: Parenting in the context of gender stereotypes

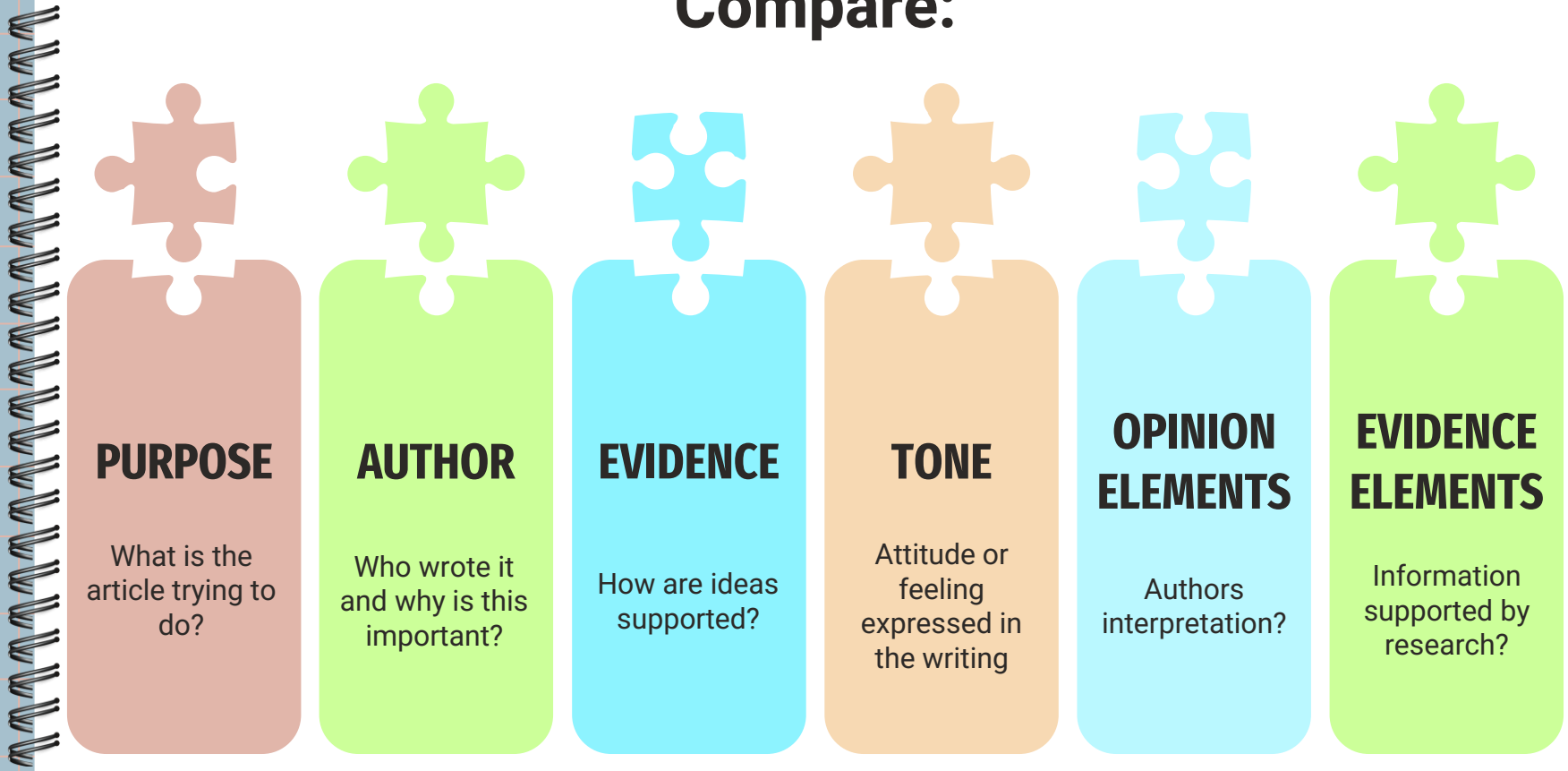
Unboxing childhood: Parenting in the context of gender stereotypes | BPS

Article B

Mentalhealth.com
Factors Influencing Gender Identity

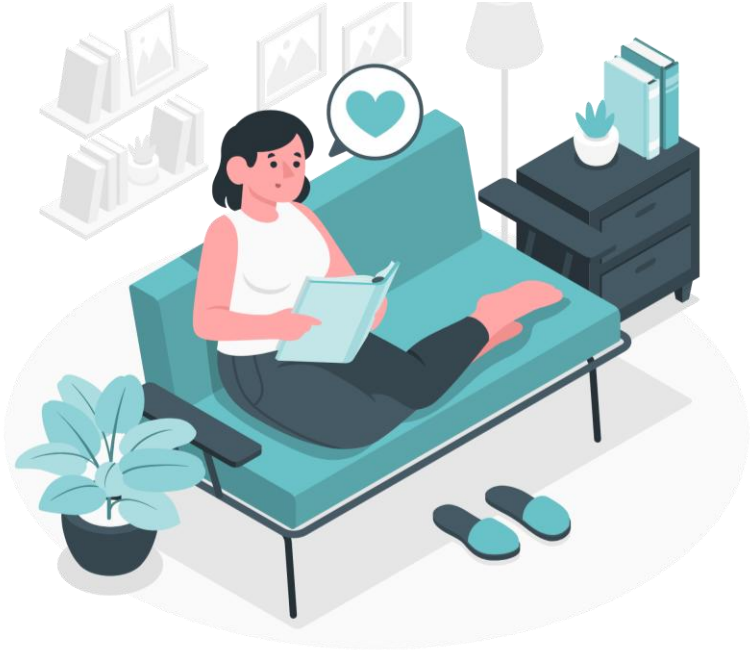
Factors Influencing Gender Identity | MentalHealth.com

Compare:

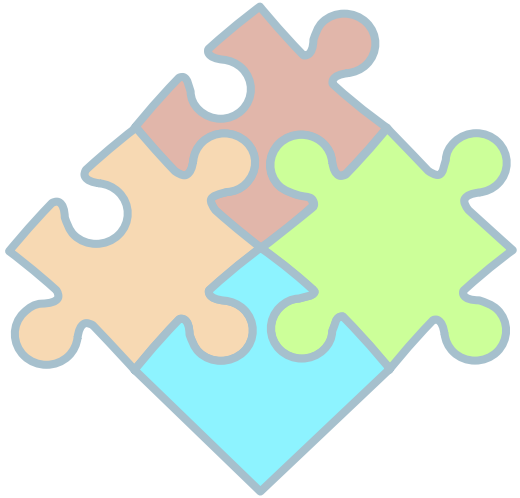

PURPOSE
What is the article trying to do?
AUTHOR
Who wrote it and why is this important?
EVIDENCE
How are ideas supported?
TONE
Attitude or feeling expressed in the writing
OPINION ELEMENTS
Authors interpretation?
EVIDENCE ELEMENTS
Information supported by research?

Discussion Question

If you were writing a university assignment, which article would you cite and why?



Identifying Key Information



Identifying Key Information

Every article contains four things

Main Idea	What is the article trying to tell us?
Key Arguments	What are the main supporting arguments?
Evidence	What examples, research or statistics are used?
Conclusion	What does the author want readers to believe?

Think Like a Detective

What is the central message?

What evidence supports that message?

What details are less important?

What would happen if I removed this section?

TIPS

Important information usually appears:

- In titles
- In introduction paragraphs
- At the beginning of paragraphs
- In conclusions

Practice: Identify Key Information



What is the main argument?



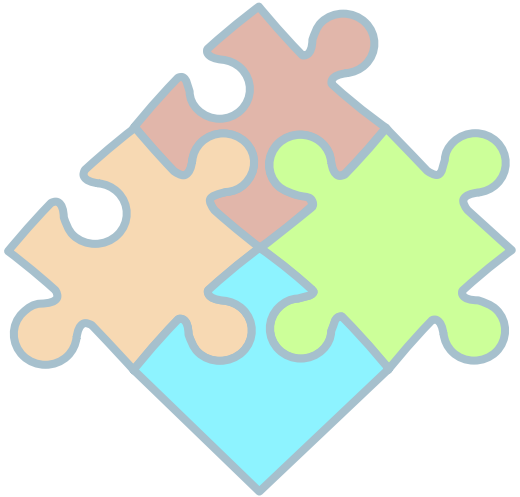
What evidence supports this?



What conclusion is being drawn?

Children begin developing ideas about gender from an early age. Research suggests that family members, teachers and media all contribute to children's understanding of what behaviours are considered appropriate for boys and girls. Social Learning Theory proposes that children observe and imitate behaviours that receive positive reinforcement. Studies have shown that children are more likely to repeat behaviours that are praised by adults. As children grow older, they become increasingly aware of social expectations relating to gender. Researchers therefore argue that gender development is influenced by both direct experiences and observations of others.

Note Taking



Note Taking

Students often make the mistake of...

Writing **everything** down
OR
Writing almost **nothing** down



Good notes help you...

- ✅ Understand information
- ✅ Prepare assignments
- ✅ Revise effectively
- ✅ Identify key points
- ✅ Avoid information overload

Effective Notes

Focus on:

- Main arguments
- Key concepts
- Definitions
- Evidence
- Questions you have

Avoid

- Copying entire paragraphs
- Writing every word spoken
- Over-highlighting

Rule

Take notes on ideas, not sentences.

Methods of Note Taking

01 Cornell Note Taking

Split the page into three sections.

Methods of Note Taking

01 Cornell Note Taking

Left Column (Cue Column)
Keywords Questions
Concepts
Examples:

- Gender schema?
- Social learning?
- Reinforcement?

Right Column (Notes)

Detailed notes from lecture or about the topic

Bottom Section
Summary of the topic in 2-3 sentences

Why the Cornell method works

Encourages:

- ✓ Active listening
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Revision
- ✓ Self-testing

Particularly useful for

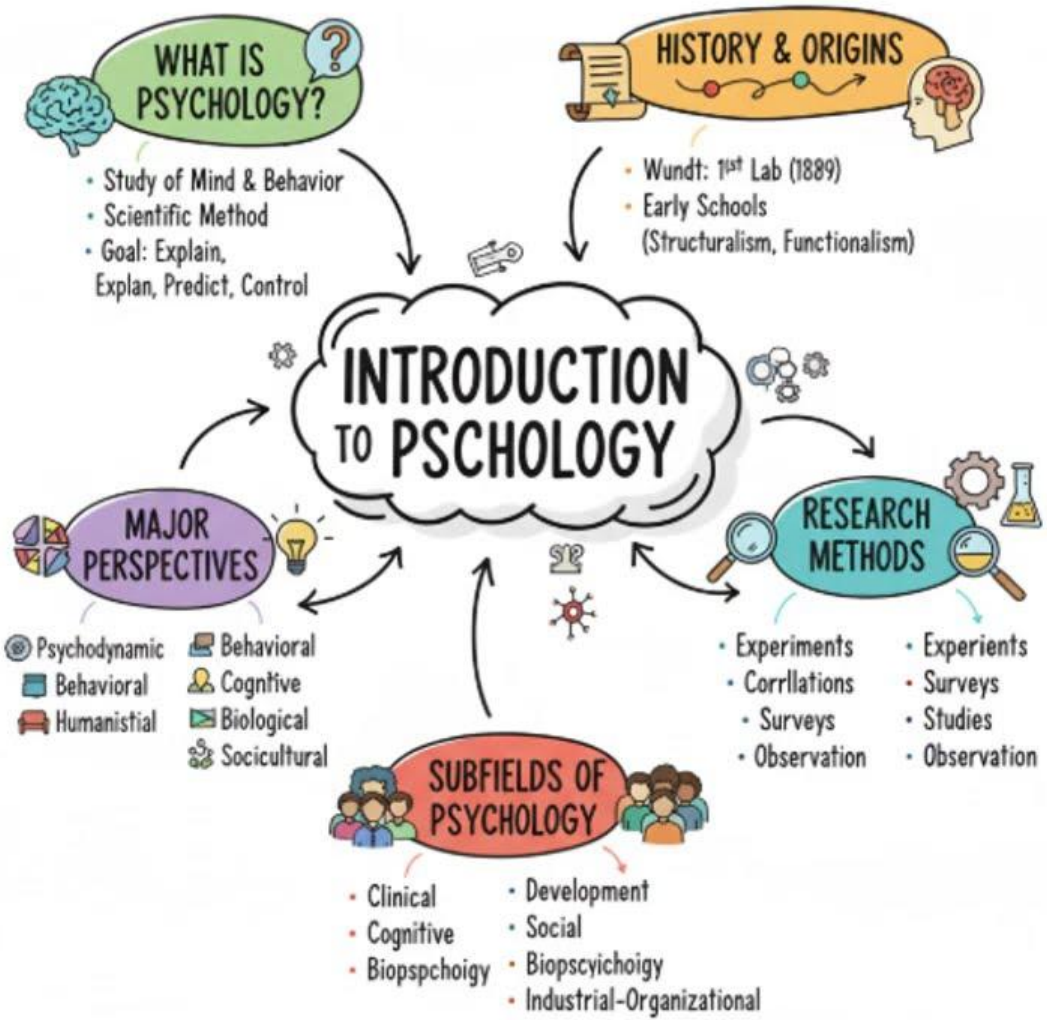
- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Reading journal articles
- ✓ Preparing exams

Methods of Note Taking

02 Mind Mapping



Use branches for sub-topics and additional notes


WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?
• Study of Mind & Behavior
• Scientific Method
• Goal: Explain, Explan, Predict, Control
HISTORY & ORIGINS
• Wundt: 1st Lab (1889)
• Early Schools (Structuralism, Functionalism)
INTRODUCTION TO PSCHOLOGY
MAJOR PERSPECTIVES
Psychodynamic
Behavioral
Humanistial
Behavioral
Cogntive
Biological
Socicultural
RESEARCH METHODS
• Experiments
• Corrllations
• Surveys
• Observation
• Experients
• Surveys
• Studies
• Observation
SUBFIELDS OF PSYCHOLOGY
• Clinical
• Cognitive
• Biopspchoigy
• Development
• Social
• Biopscyichoigy
• Industrial-Organizational

Methods of Note Taking

02 Mind Mapping

Best for:

- ✅ Visual learners
- ✅ Planning assignments
- ✅ Seeing links between ideas
- ✅ Revision

Methods of Note Taking

03 Outline Method

Structured notes
Example: Gender Development

1. Social Learning Theory

- Observation
- Modelling
- Reinforcement

2. Cognitive Theory

- Active thinking
- Gender schemas

3. Biological influences

- Hormones
- Genetics

Methods of Note Taking

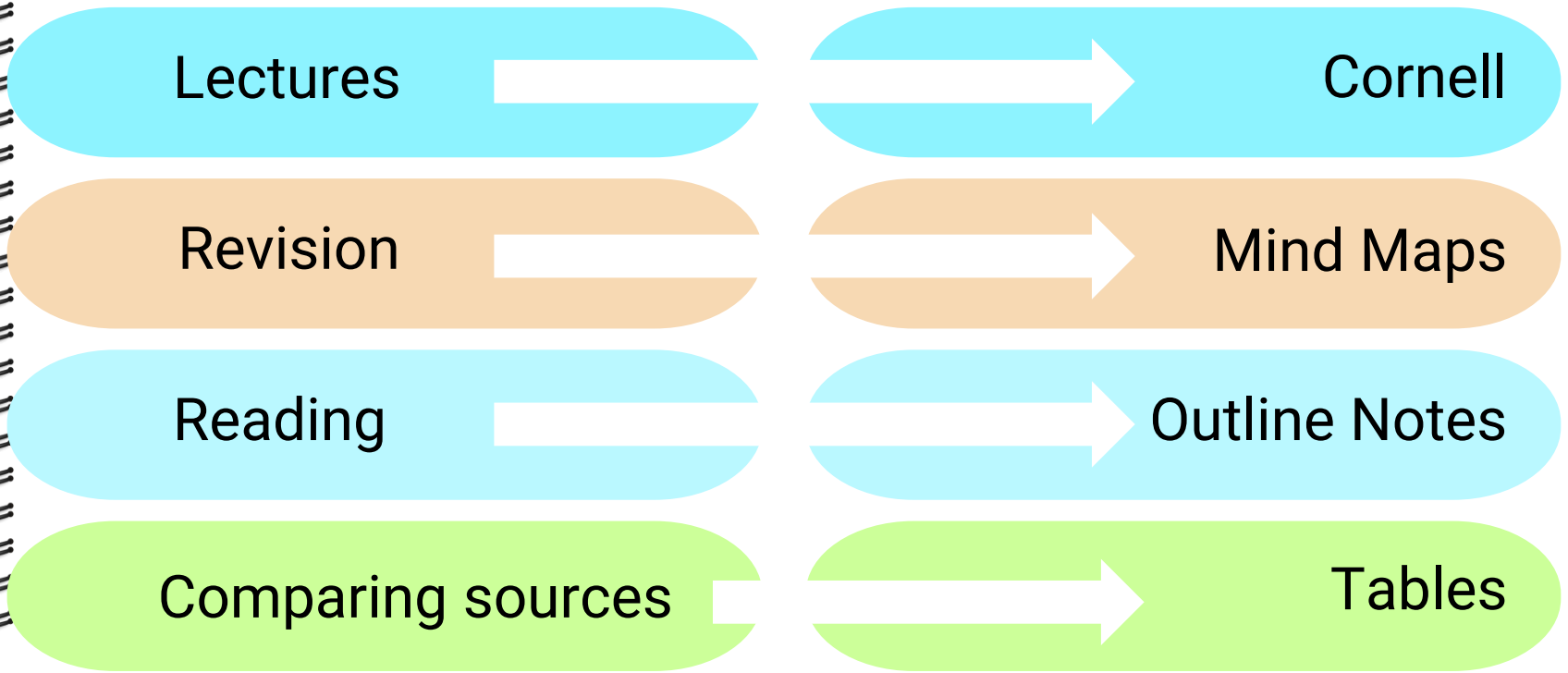
03 Outline Method

Structured notes
Example: Gender Development

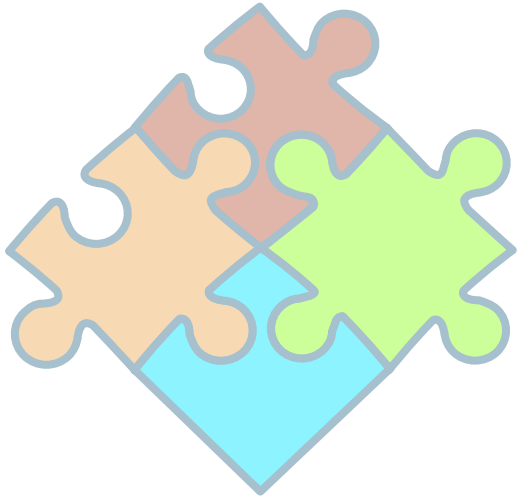
Best for:

- Text-heavy subjects
- Reading articles
- Essay planning

Which method should you use?



Summarising



Why Do We Summarise?

01
Understand information

02
Revise effectively

03
Take notes efficiently

04
Avoid plagiarism

05
Demonstrate understanding

A summary is not a copy
It is a shorter version written in your own words

Poor and Strong summaries

Poor summary	Strong summary
Too long Copies words directly Includes every detail No overall message	Uses own words Focuses on main points Includes important evidence Captures overall argument Brief and clear

Common mistakes when summarising

01

Copying sentences directly

02

Including every detail

03

Adding personal opinions

04

Missing the author's main message

05

Writing an essay instead of a summary

Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule

Sentence 1

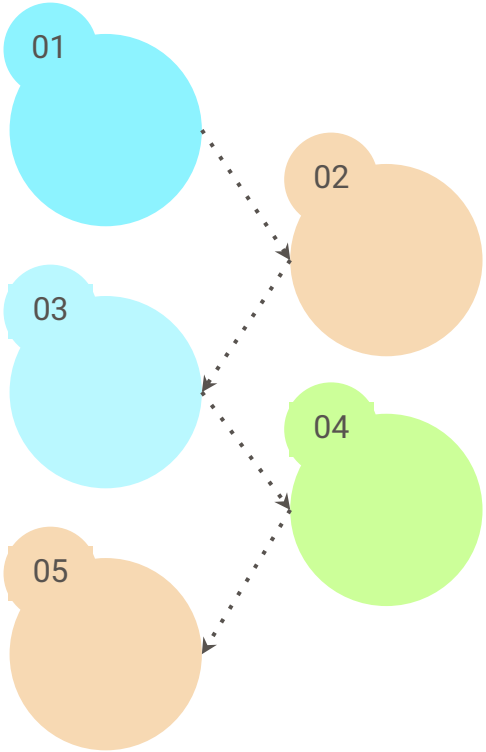
Topic

Sentence 3

Key finding/s

Sentence 5

Conclusion



Sentence 2

Main argument

Sentence 4

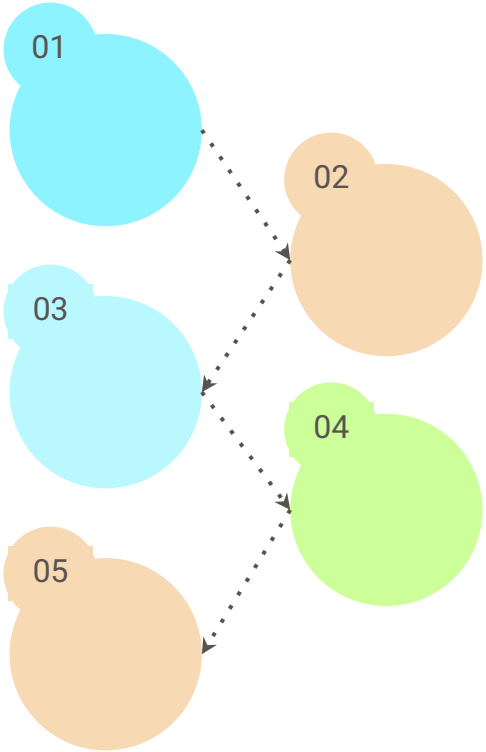
Evidence

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Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule

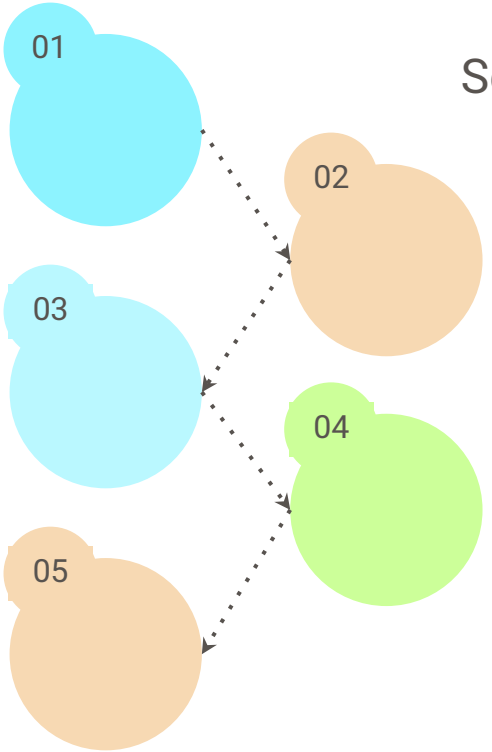
Sentence 1: Topic

This article discusses how gender stereotypes develop during childhood, and the role parents play in shaping children's understanding of gender



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Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule



Sentence 2: Main argument

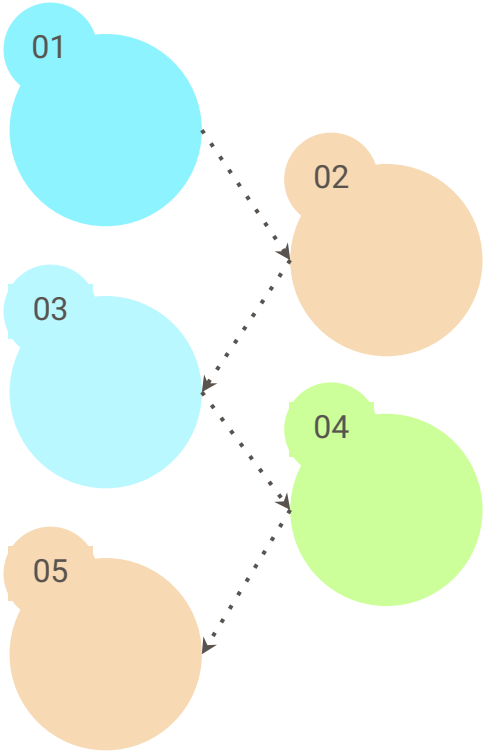
The author argues that children are exposed to gender stereotypes from an early age through family, culture and wider society.

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Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule

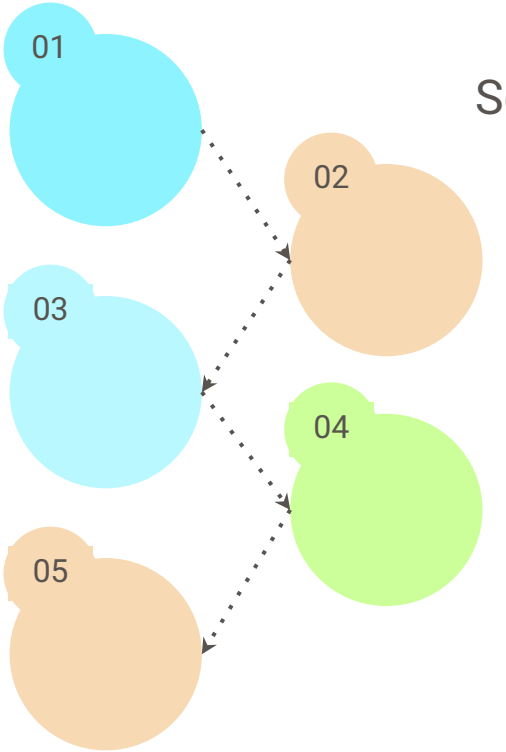
Sentence 3: Key finding

Research suggests that gender-role expectations begin influencing children during their earliest years of development



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Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule



Sentence 4: Supporting evidence

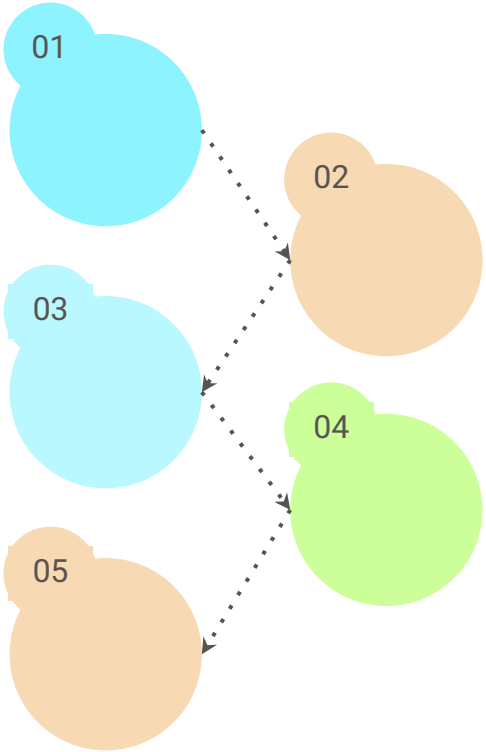
The article refers to studies showing that parents' expectations, behaviour and choices about toys, clothing and activities can affect children's understanding of gender roles

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Structuring a summary: Five sentence rule

Sentence 5: Conclusion

Overall, the article concludes that greater awareness of gender stereotypes may help parents support children's development more effectively



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CRAAP Test on Article A



Unboxing childhood: Parenting in the context of gender stereotypes | BPS

Indicative assessment title: Influences on child gender development

CRAAP test worksheet on Moodle (week 3)

Portfolio Task: Week 3

Part A: Summary (200 words)
Summarise Article A.
Include CRAAP test worksheet as evidence piece

Part B: Evaluation (100 words)
Compare Article A and Article B.
Discuss:

- Which source is more trustworthy / reliable?
- What are the similarities and differences?
- Which article would you use in your academic work?

Any Questions?

