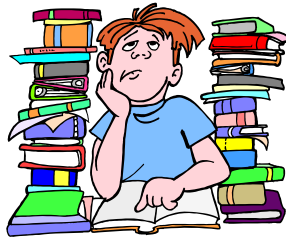


This report is part of a working papers' series, and its content cannot be quoted without the author's consent.

Process Analysis Task 1: Reading a research article



Explanation of the task

One aspect of carrying out research involves making yourself familiar with what other researchers have found and have written about a particular topic, and checking to see how much of that can be of use to you. For that reason one of your first tasks in this module involves you in reading an example of a piece of research which is relevant to the actual topic of your project. You will then discuss with your group what you have found, and then repeat this exercise with a second article. However this can be a challenging task because; for example:

- these research articles are written for the research community and not primarily for students like you
- the language and structure of the article may make it difficult for you to fully understand the article
- the paper may also include material of relevance to the research community, but not necessarily to you at this stage

For the reasons outlined above, we are asking you to read one such article with the intention of identifying and understanding what it has to say which is of relevance to you, *and* to think about how you are tackling this task, as you go along. We suggest from past experience that this task and the accompanying process analysis will be of most use to you, if you devote some time to:

1. Describing to yourself how you are tackling the reading, as that work progresses
2. Summarising what you have learnt of relevance from reading the article, and how you chose to select that part of the content. You should aim to split this into;
 - a. What is known about this topic?
 - b. What are the main outstanding issues that have not been resolved by this researcher?

3. Based on this, identifying one specific area that you feel might be feasible for your group to research. Make a brief note on what you are suggesting as a potential area to research and state why you feel it might be worthwhile. Use this summary to contribute to the group discussion at the meeting in Week 2.

4. Pinpointing what you found difficult when reading the article, how you dealt with these difficulties, and how effective you were in so doing.

Before you start the process analysis, you should make a note of how you **intend to** tackle this reading, which should be based on your previous experience, your discussion with your fellow students and any advice provided by your tutor.

There are two demands to be met here – describing how you are doing it (1 and 4) is different from the second – summarising what you learnt (2). You might find it helpful to fold a page in half in a jotter and use one half to note down how you are tackling the task, and the other half to summarise what you have learnt so far.

How am I doing it	What have I learnt so far..
<p><i>Use this part of the page for your process analysis</i></p>	<p>What is known about this topic:</p> <p>What are the main outstanding issues that have not been resolved by this researcher:</p> <p><i>Use this as your contribution to the group meeting</i></p>

You'll find that it will help you to keep a brief log which records your thoughts under each of these headings.

Your summary of the key issues: What is known? and What is still outstanding? should be used to inform your discussion at the next group meeting. This discussion should be recorded as part of your group minutes and should be posted on your group Discussion board. Your tutor will look at this – and may make suggestions that you and others in the group may wish to try out in your next similar task.

Process Analysis

Make a concise but informative record of:

- How you are carrying out your reading *this* time and how this approach might usefully differ (if at all) next time – in method, and in effectiveness for you.
- Any difficulties that you encountered whilst reading the article, and how you are dealing with these.
- Note down advice to yourself stating how you intend tackling reading research articles in the future when your aim is to read in order to get a general overview of a paper, and what it has to offer you in a particular context, possibly in relation to the next research article that you will be required to read.

Write a brief account of your analysis of your process, and of what is emerging from it for the next time you tackle such tasks, (around 300-400 words). Please note that this should focus on how you are carrying out the task and not on the content of the article.

Submit this analysis for comment by your commenter by the date stated in the Course Calendar.

Remember that you are likely to want to use part of this analysis in your final, summative assessment, so it is important that you complete it and keep a record of it - and of the comments from your commenter.

Stage 2: Reading second article

As part of the enquiry work you will be required to read a second article, the specific article chosen will depend on the decisions taken by the group at the second group meeting. You should use the comments from the first process analysis to guide you in terms of how you tackle your reading. You may wish to keep notes for yourself on this and refer to it in the [Critical Review](#) at the end of the semester.