

Introduction

In the introduction, cite the journal article in full and provide a summary of the journal article. Use the answers to the questions in the section Analyze the Text to develop the summary.

- Analyze the Text
 - What is the author's central purpose? Look at INTRODUCTION.
 - What methods were used to accomplish this purpose (systematic recording of observations, analysis and evaluation of published research, assessment of theory)? Look at METHODS.
What were the techniques used? and how was each technique performed?
What kind of data can be obtained using each technique?
How are such data interpreted?
What kind of information is produced by using the technique?
 - What objective evidence was obtained from the author's efforts (observations, measurements etc.)? What were the results of the study? Look at RESULTS.
How was each technique used to obtain each result?
What statistical tests were used to evaluate the significance of the conclusions based on numeric or graphic data?
How did each result contribute to answering the question or testing the hypothesis raised in the introduction?
 - How were the results interpreted? How were they related to the original problem (author's view of evidence rather than objective findings)? Look at DISCUSSION.
Were the author(s) able to answer the question (test the hypothesis) raised?
Did the research provide new factual information, a new understanding of a phenomenon in the field, a new research technique?
How was the significance of the work described?
Did the reported observations/interpretations support or refute observations or interpretations made by other researchers?

Body

Follow the structure of the journal article. Evaluate each section of the article – Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion – highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each section. Use the answers to the questions in Evaluate the Text to develop this section.

- Evaluate the Text

Use this checklist:

INTRODUCTION

- Read the statement of purpose at the end of the introduction. What was the objective of the study?
- Consider the title. Does it precisely state the subject of the paper?
- Read the statement of purpose in the abstract. Does it match the one in the introduction?
- Check the sequence of statements in the introduction. Does all the information lead coherently to the purpose of the study?

METHODS

- Review all methods in relation to the objective(s) of the study. Are the methods valid for studying the problem?
- Check the methods for essential information. Could the study be duplicated from the methods and information given?
- Check the methods for flaws. Is the sample selection adequate? Is the experimental design sound?
- Check the sequence of statements in the methods. Does all the information belong there? Is the sequence of methods clear and pertinent?

RESULTS

- Examine carefully the data as presented in the tables and diagrams. Does the title or legend accurately describe the content? Are column headings and labels accurate? Are the data organized for ready comparison and interpretation? (A table should be self-explanatory, with a title that accurately and concisely describes content and column headings that accurately describe information in the cells.)
- Review the results as presented in the text while referring to the data in the tables and diagrams. Does the text complement, and not simply repeat, data? Are there discrepancies between the results in the text and those in the tables?
- Check all calculations and presentation of data.
- Review the results in light of the stated objectives. Does the study reveal what the researcher intended?

DISCUSSION

- Check the interpretation against the results. Does the discussion merely repeat the results? Does the interpretation arise logically from the data or is it too far-fetched? Have the faults/flaws/shortcomings of the research been addressed?
- Is the interpretation supported by other research cited in the study?
- Does the study consider key studies in the field?
- Are there other research possibilities/directions suggested?

OVERVIEW

- Reread the abstract. Does it accurately summarize the article?
- Check the structure of the article (first headings and then paragraphing). Is all the material organized under the appropriate headings? Are sections divided logically into subsections or paragraphs?
- Are stylistic concerns, logic, clarity and economy of expression addressed?

Conclusion

In this section, sum up the strengths and weaknesses of the research as a whole. Establish its practical and theoretical significance. Use the answers to questions Establish the Significance of the Research to develop this section.

- Establish the Significance of the Research
Finally, it is important to establish whether the research has been successful – has it led to new questions being asked, new ways of using existing knowledge? Are other researchers citing this paper?

Use the following questions:

- How did other researchers view the significance of the research reported by your authors?
- Did the research reported in your article result in the formulation of new questions or hypotheses (by the authors, by other researchers)?
- Have other researchers subsequently supported or refuted the observations/interpretations of these authors?
- Did the research make a significant contribution to human knowledge?
- Did the research produce any practical applications?
- What are the social, political, technological, medical implications of this research?
- How do you evaluate the significance of the research?