Recognising Academic and Research Articles

What is an academic/scholarly/research article?

- reports on original research and/or critiques latest research and theory
- written by academics and researchers
- peer-reviewed by other experts before being accepted for publication
- published by a professional or academic organisation.
- aimed at scholarly and professional communities.
- includes in-text citations (or footnotes) and a list of references, mostly to other scholarly articles.

Characteristics of a research article?

- reports the author’s original research or reviews other research to answer a question.
- involves a study of some sort, using methods such as interviews, surveys, observations or measurements.
- begins with an abstract (from which you can judge whether an article is reporting or reviewing research)
- contains a review of other research, which may be a literature review or a review of studies
- includes an explanation of what has been used as data (including what has been included and excluded and why)
- analyses results to reach a conclusion on research question.

Helpful checklist:

A research article will usually include the following:

- **Abstract:** condensed summation of article
- **Introduction:** states topic of research – poses a research question
- **Literature review:** review of other published literature or research on the same topic
- **Methodology:** outlines how the research was carried out, using methods such as interviews, surveys, observations or measurements. Includes an explanation of what has been used as data (including what has been included and excluded, and why)
- **Results:** describes the information collected during the research
- **Discussion:** analyses results to reach a conclusion on the research question
- **Conclusion:** discusses implications of the results and identifies possible further research
- **References:** lists articles, books, and other sources referred to (cited) in the article

We’re always happy to help!

**Subject Librarians for Education:** Kathryn Andrews, Fiona Tyson.

- Phone the library (0800 763 676)
- Email the library ([library@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:library@canterbury.ac.nz))
- Email us ([firstname.lastname@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:firstname.lastname@canterbury.ac.nz))
- AskLive online chat with a librarian.
Evaluating resources for your assignments

**Green:** appropriate academic resources for your essay/assignment.

**Orange:** may be appropriate; consider carefully where the resource was located, how reliable it is, and why you are using it. Use sparingly.

**Red:** Very unlikely to be appropriate, unless identified by your lecturer as a resource they wish you to look at.

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**My Essay**

- Textbook
- Government website
- Dictionary, Encyclopaedia
- Lecture ppt. on LEARN
- Business website
- Travel video
- YouTube video
- Conversation with your academic
- Article giving expert opinion on topic
- Legislation
- Government Policy Document
- Conference paper
- Magazine article
- Image
- Television Programme
- Lobby group publication e.g. ASH anti-smoking group
- NGO website e.g. World Health Organisation (WHO) cf. Greenpeace
- Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter
- Advertising material
- My Essay