

When students in the sciences are first faced with using primary research literature, the prospect sometimes seems overwhelming. Knowing what I do about the subject, what gaps in my knowledge need to be filled, what knowledge needs to be expanded, and what controversial points need to be corroborated? The worst way to read a research paper is to read it word for word, title to literature cited, as if it were a textbook. Generate expectations of a journal article before you read it. This will help your analysis of the work in front of you, plus keep you more interested in the material. Then what: