

How to Read a Scholarly Article

What Does a Scholarly Article Look Like?



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Example Author Manuscript Title

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ABSTRACT

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Introduction

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What is an Abstract?

The abstract, generally written by the author(s) of the article, provides a *concise summary* of the whole article. Usually it highlights the focus, study results and conclusion(s) of the article.

Read the abstract first as it covers basics of the article. Questions to consider:

- What is this article about? What is the working hypothesis or thesis?
- Is this related to my question or area of research?

What is a DOI?

A Digital Object Identifier (usually written as DOI) is an identification number or source link for a document or file. It's a system that is widely used by journals today. The DOI is comprised of symbols, numbers, and letters.

Example: doi:10.1038/s41586-019-1805-z

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Here is an example from *The New England Journal of Medicine*:

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CLINICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING FREE PREVIEW

Facing Uncertainty

Cristina Thomas, M.D., Ruth Ann Vleugels, M.D., M.P.H., David J. Kwiatkowski, M.D., Ph.D., Bruce Levy, M.D., and Joseph Loscalzo, M.D., Ph.D.



A 57-year-old woman presented with a 1-year history of an itchy facial rash, which was unresponsive to a 3-month course of prednisone and hydroxychloroquine. Redness had spread from her face to her scalp and neck. She reported a productive cough and progressive dyspnea for the preceding 2 weeks.

December 5, 2019

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DOI: 10.1056/NEJMcp1906037

Editors

Caren G. Solomon, M.D., M.P.H., Editor

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Subjects

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Cancer genomics

CNS cancer

Genomic instability

miRNAs

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Thomas, Cristina, et al. "Facing Uncertainty." *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 381, no. 23, 2019, pp. 2253–2259., doi:10.1056/nejmcps1906037.

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