



Academic reading: Examples of genres

Textbook

- Written for students
- The primary purpose is to introduce readers without specialist knowledge to specific academic areas
- Rarely problematising or critical
- In general, chapters are not intended to be read in any specific order
- Guides the reader through the text (table of contents, index, overview of central points and coherence in individual chapters)
- The contents of the book can be subject to discussion elsewhere in academic literature

Scientific article

- Written for a research community
- The purpose is to communicate new knowledge to other professionals and researchers
- An article is rarely an introduction to a topic
- Articles focus on analyses, discussions and assessments
- Less flexible structure: Is based on a research question and has ongoing and coherent argumentation
- Harder to read sections in random order
- Often includes a summary or an abstract

Other typical text types

- Works (e.g. Dewey, Klafki, Rousseau)
- Communicative articles
- Reports
- Ministerial orders
- Manuals
- Discussion papers
- Reference works
- Legal texts
- Cases
- Interviews
- Narrative reports
- Etc.

What kind of texts do you need to read for your degree programme?

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