

Strategies for Reading

The *Outside-In* approach to a scholarly article or book is a method that allows you to focus in on the author's central thesis and what matters most. Follow the steps below to learn how:

Step 1: Read the introduction of the book or article. Try to understand what the author will try to argue and how he/she will argue it

Step 2: Read the conclusion of the book or article. The conclusion wraps up the author's main points and clarifies the "point" of the reading.

Step 3: Read the first and last paragraph of each book chapter or section of the article. This will allow you to determine the major sub-arguments and their order.

Step 4: Read/skim through the entire reading from start to finish. At this stage, you should already have an idea of the author's main argument. Use this step to focus in on specific pieces of evidence.

Don't forget to use your resources! <http://www.brynmawr.edu/academicsupport/StudentSupportServices.html>

Created in collaboration by the Bryn Mawr College Undergraduate Dean's Office, The Teaching Learning Initiative & Peer Mentoring Services.