

Faculty of Community Services

Academic Support & Resource Centre

Analyzing & Synthesizing Articles

Consider the following sentences for formal and conversational writing tones:

- a) According to recent statistics from both teams over the past 5 games, TMU is more likely to win the upcoming game.
- b) I believe there is a high chance TMU will win the upcoming game.

Formal	Conversational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impersonal: no “I” statements or first person- Speaks in third-person- Professional, thoughtful, direct- Well-suited for analytic writing, research, and presenting evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Informal: “I” statements are acceptable- Humanizes your writing, well-suited for reflective assignments and situation recall- Usually comes across as relaxed and straightforward

Writing-up analytical findings

- Narrow down your search topic and identify key words
- Describe your search process (these key words were used, these databases were used—JSTOR, TMU library, etc.)
- Explain your rationale for choosing your articles. Were they chosen for their subject matter? For their findings? Date of publication?

Tips for analyzing each article – Analyzing an article is about focusing on **one** piece of research or literature. Each element of the research/literature is examined.

- Take a look at the article’s abstract, introduction, discussion (if included) and conclusion
- Look for the rationale behind the study – why was it conducted?
- What methodologies were used? What was the theoretical framework under which the study was operating?
- What do the conclusions and implications mean for your paper/topic/field of study?
- What are the limitations of the study? (Did the sample group only reflect one specific demographic/population? Whose voice was heard? Whose was excluded?)
- Where do the authors/researchers position themselves? Is there a clear perspective from which the author/researcher is coming?
- How does this article reflect the purposes of your paper/topic/research interest?

Tips for Synthesizing your articles – Synthesizing research material is always about **two or more** pieces of material. To synthesize is to connect your individual articles by looking for themes, patterns, and gaps.

- After analyzing your articles, what were the themes? Were there similar methodologies used? Similar findings?
- What are the possible implications of the findings from **both** articles? For example, “based on the findings of article A and the discussion of study B, the following conclusions can be drawn about _____—*insert population here*, *insert profession here*, etc.
- While looking for similarities, be on the lookout for gaps in knowledge/research. For example, “after analyzing studies A, B, and C, it is clear that *something** was missing” *The “something” could mean representation, an alternative explanation, or some other element