

ACADEMIC READING: EXAMPLES OF GENRES

Textbook

- › Written for students
- › The primary purpose is to introduce recipients without specialist knowledge to specific academic areas
- › Rarely problematising or critical
- › In general, chapters are not intended to be read in a specific order
- › Guides the reader through the text (table of contents, index, overview of central points and coherent 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 are analyses, discussions and assessments
- › Less flexible structure: Is based on a research question and has an ongoing and coherent argumentation
- › Harder to read sections in random order
- › Often has a summary or abstract

Other typical texts

- › Works (e.g. Dewey, Klafki, Rousseau)
- › Communicating articles
- › Reports
- › Ministerial orders
- › Manuals
- › Discussion paper
- › Reference sources
- › Legal texts
- › Cases
- › Interviews
- › Narrative reports
- › Etc.

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