How to Read Scholarly Literature

Below are six questions you should ask yourself when reading any type of scholarly literature, whether a book, journal article, or Thesis:

- What is the Research Question?
- What is the purpose of the study?
- What sample or data do they include? (What method is used to collect data?)
- What are the findings of the study?
- What is the conclusion?
- What are the limitations of the study?

When reading multiple articles, create an Annotated Bibliography to organize the information. Include the answer to these questions. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Research Question</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Sample/Data</th>
<th>Findings</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
<th>Your Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of article 1 (Citation)</td>
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<td>Title of article 2 (Citation)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, consider your answers to the following questions for your “notes” section:

- Did the author(s) answer the Research Question?
- Did the author(s) include sufficient, valid sources to support their findings?
- What other sources can you find to compare/contrast to this piece of literature?