Theme 2: Defining the Research Problem

Reading a Journal Article

**Task 1: Skimming, Scanning, Intensive Reading**

**1A:** What is the difference between skimming, scanning and intensive reading?

**1B:** When you find a new journal article, which of these elements do you (i) skim, (ii) scan and (iii) read intensively?

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Main body
4. References

**Task 2: Front Page**

**2A:** The following information appears on the front page of every journal article. How could each of these help you decide if an article will be useful to your Research Project?

1. Article title
2. Authors’ names
3. Journal title
4. Year of publication

**2B:** Find these in the article provided by your teacher and decide if the article is relevant to you.

**Task 3: Abstract**

**3A:** Explain the following terms. Which of them can you expect to find in a journal article abstract?

1. Background
2. Rationale
3. Research aim
4. Research questions
5. Methodology
6. Detail about research findings
7. Overall conclusion
8. Implications/applications/recommendations

**3B:** Find as many as you can in the abstract of the article provided by your teacher.

**Task 4: Journal Article Sections**

**4A:** Many journal articles follow the same overall structure. Put the sections below in the correct order in which they appear in an article:

1. Conclusion
2. References
3. Title
4. Introduction
5. Findings
6. Methodology
7. Abstract
8. Discussion
9. Literature Review

**4B:** Scan the article provided by your teacher. Does it follow the same structure? Do the sections have the same titles?

**4C:** In which of these journal article sections (a-i) can you find the following information?

1. Research Questions
2. A review of other academic sources on the topic
3. Summary of the key conclusions
4. Limitations of the study
5. Data (e.g. graphics) based on data analysis
6. Contributions/implications of the study
7. A full list of sources cited
8. Description of data collection process

**4D:** Skim the article provided by your teacher to find the information above.