In small groups discuss your chosen research topic(s):

- What are you studying?
- What topic did you focus on?
- Why did you focus on this topic?
- Are there any ‘sub’ topics within this topic?
Choosing appropriate sources

Discuss
• What makes a reading source suitable for academic tasks?
• What do you look for?

Activity
• Watch the video explaining scholarly/academic sources.
• Develop a criteria for evaluating sources.
Choosing appropriate sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Critical Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Who conducted the research? Is the author an authority in their field of study? Evidence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>Is it peer reviewed or been passed by an editorial panel? If a website, are there details of author, a publication date?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>Is the literature accurate? How do you know? What makes the lit. believable? Is it from credible sources?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectivity</td>
<td>Is there evidence of bias in article? How do you know the data is true? Supporting data?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Consider publication date. More current information available? Does more recent research cast doubt on or refute some findings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Is the information complete? Does it cover the area studied? What is the sample size? Is it adequate? Has any research been omitted?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>In which country was the article written? Is this location relevant / important to your research?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Task**: In groups, evaluate the readings and identify which are academic or scholarly. Explain your choices.
Discuss

• What does it mean to be ‘efficient’?
  (e.g. what do you do to be an efficient shopper at the supermarket?)

• How can you be an efficient reader?
Efficient Reading Model

Efficient Reading Process

- Think about the topic
  - What do you already know?
  - What information do you expect to find in the text?

- Look at the organisation of the text
  - Study the layout
  - Study the key parts of the text

- Read the introduction and conclusion
- Read the topic sentences

Adapted from Howard 1997, p. 2.12
Reading Activity

- You will each be given an article.
- Use the Efficient Reading Model
- You have 5 minutes to develop an overview of the article by looking at its key features.
- When you have finished, work in small groups to summarise your overview in a few short sentences.

Chapter 8: Academic Reading, pp. 76 – 90.