



University of  
South Australia

# Introductory Academic Program

## Reading 1

Learning Advisers  
UniSA



# Discussion

**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

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



# Evaluating sources

- **Task:** In groups, evaluate the readings and identify which are academic or scholarly. Explain your choices.



# Efficient Reading

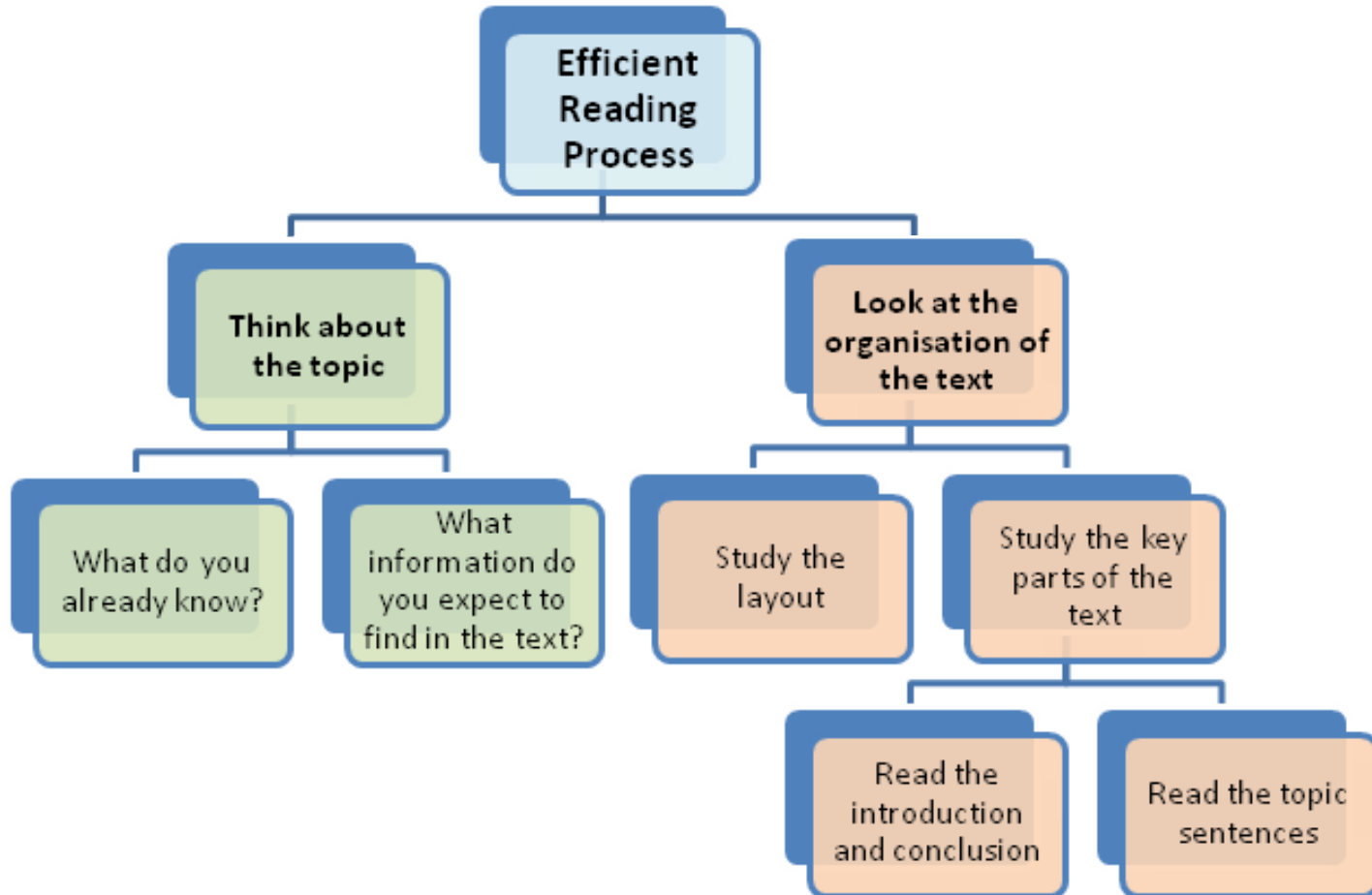
## Discuss

- 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



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.





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# Suggested Readings

Brick, J 2011, *Academic culture: a student's guide to studying at university*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Macmillan, Australia.

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

