# Centre for Academic Development

Reading template for broad reading

Use the reading template on the following page to structure your broad reading of a selection of different texts on a particular topic, or in a particular field.

For each text you read, fill in brief notes to remind you of the key points (as shown by the example entry at the top of the table over the page). The table format allows you to compare the main approaches, arguments, and evidence from a range of texts at a glance.

On your own downloaded copy you can make the space between the rows bigger to allow more room for writing your notes.

Why might you need to read broadly?

To:

* Gain an understanding of a topic / research areas
* Help decide what topic or specific part to focus on
* Prepare for a seminar discussion on a broad topic
* Produce an assignment that asks you to compare a range of texts e.g. a literature review

| Reference | Text type | Main idea / line of reasoning | Supporting evidence | My comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXAMPLE: Gooseman, A et al. (2020). “Hunger in the primary school setting: evidence, impacts and solutions according to school staff in the North East of England, UK”, DOI: [10.1080/03004279.2019.1602155](https://doi.org/10.1080/03004279.2019.1602155) | Journal article reporting on small-scale qualitative research study (12 school staff interviewed). | The researchers started by researching effects of ‘holiday hunger’ but found from interviews that it was a much broader issue relating to deprivation all year round. A lot of effects - physical, social and behavioural, cognitive and developmental. | Interview answers from participants back up wider issues of cost of living crisis and topical issues.  Short literature review at the start setting these issues in context. | Small study - limited participants and only 2 schools in the North.  Too broad - not enough detail in interview answers.  The researchers conclude that it is a problem that has widespread effects and is difficult to solve - not a very deep / useful conclusion! |
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