

Guiding Questions for Journal Article Reports

- (1) What is the article about? Begin by trying to answer this question in one sentence.
- (2) What does the author declare as the goals of the article?
- (3) What does the author identify as the central issues to be dealt with?
- (4) What claims or theories are attacked? How are the attacks made?
- (5) What views are defended? How are the defences made?
- (6) What concessions, if any, are made by the author to the views under criticism?
- (7) Does the author's defence of some view involve an attempt to modify the view in order to make it more defensible? If so, explain.
- (8) If the author is primarily attempting to interpret or explain someone's views, state what the author believes is in need of explanation or interpretation. What is the essence of the author's explanation?

The standard reference tool for researching articles in Philosophy Journals is ***The Philosophers' Index***, a multi-volume quarterly bound according to year. The Hard copy version of the Index is in the reference room of Penfield Library. It can also be accessed on-line. Go to the main page for Penfield Library. Choose "Databases added this Semester". Choose "By subject". Choose "Philosophy". Choose "Philosopher's Index". This search tool is capable of sending all of your search results to you by e-mail, if you wish. Very few Philosophy Journals publish their articles on-line.

Examples of Philosophy Journals containing articles about topics in Medieval Philosophy

The Journal of the History of Philosophy
The Modern Schoolman
The Thomist
The American Philosophical Quarterly
History of Philosophy Quarterly
Review of Metaphysics
Canadian Journal of Philosophy
The Journal of Philosophy
International Philosophical Quarterly
Mind
Nous
Philosophy

Articles in Journals to which Penfield Library does not subscribe can usually be obtained through Penfield's Interlibrary loan service. This is a free service to SUNY students. The library that has the journal will send a free photocopy of the article to you. I encourage you to take advantage of this service.

PLEASE NOTE: When you have finished looking at either a bound volume of a journal or a current issue of a journal, do not put it back on the shelf where you found it. Leave it on a table or a desk somewhere nearby. This is not just a suggestion. The library wants users of journals to follow this procedure. The reason is that the library may then gather information on the frequency of journal use. The less frequently a journal is used, the more likely it is to be cut from the list of those the library will continue to subscribe to. Do your part to help the library resist these pressures to deplete its holdings.

Remember to use standard format to cite the article at the beginning of
The report:

AUTHOR(S), "TITLE", *NAME OF JOURNAL* (In italics or underlined).
Volume, Number, date.

If you quote from the text of the article in your summary, do footnotes after the quotations. Just put the name(s) of the author(s), the page number and the date of the article in parentheses.

Example:

Lacey, H., "Empiricism and Augustine's Problems About Time,"
The Review of Metaphysics, XXII, 219-245 (1968-69).

So, a quotation from the article would be immediately followed by a citation that looks like this:

(Lacey, H., 1968-69, pg. 32)