

Questions and suggestions for reading Kruijver et al.,

In the typical scientific research article, there are critical elements that are presented in each of the major sections. If we haven't yet discussed these in class (due to time), you can see a brief description below. You should strive to identify those critical elements from each of the major sections. In addition, here are just a few things to help you read and understand this paper.

1. Prior to this study, what was already known about mamillary body complex described in this report?
2. orchidectomy/orchiectomy = castration
3. In the section labeled "staining specificity" they are trying to make sure that their antibody is sticking well and ONLY sticking to the androgen receptor and that the staining is only picking up the antibody stuck to the androgen receptor.
4. ANOVAs are statistical tests to evaluate differences between more than 2 groups of subjects.
5. AR-ir stands for androgen receptor immunoreactivity, that is, what they measured – antibody stuck to androgen receptor.
6. What arguments do the authors make about how these results help us understand human sexual differentiation?

Reading research reports

1. Major sections

Introduction
Methods
Results
Discussion
References

2. Introduction

Background
What is already known? What is the burning question?

3. Methods

How was the NEW experiment conducted?
Subjects?
Measures?
How analyzed?
Enough detail for someone else to repeat

4. Results

What was found in this new experiment?
Averages values
Statistical differences

5. Discussion

What do the results mean?

Do they refute/support a hypothesis
Do they fit with previous research?
Do they raise new questions?
Were there problems with the experiment