Reading Research: Skim with Purpose

Skim, Re-Read, Interpret, Summarize

Step 1: Read the Title and Abstract

These components are the best tools in helping you determine if the article is relevant to your research.

Title of the Article: _____

First author's name: _____

Date of Publication: _____

Step 2: Read the Introduction and Conclusion/Discussion

These sections will help you identify why the research is being done and what the major findings of the study are.

Purpose What were the authors looking for? What question(s) did they ask?	*In your words:* *Exact statement from study (in quotes):*
Do the authors identify a gap in existing research that this study attempts to fill? If so, what is it?	
Findings What are the authors' major conclusions or findings? Include quotations whenever you use exact wording from the study.	

These first two steps will help you determine if this research article is going to be useful for your research. Be sure to look up any words or ideas that are unfamiliar to you.

If the paper meets your needs, read the introduction and methods sections carefully.

Step 3: Look at the Methodology

This section will help you identify how the data for this study was collected. You may want to draw diagrams for each experiment to help you fully understand the work.

Methodology What methods did the authors use to answer their question? Briefly summarize the main steps or measurements. Use your own words as much as possible.	

Step 4: Examine Results

Before reading the authors' conclusion, analyze any data presented in tables or figures and try to draw your own conclusions.

Results What are the results of each experiment? What conclusions can <u>you</u> make based on the data provided?	

Step 5: Read the Conclusion/Discussion/Interpretation

This section will provide the authors' interpretation of the results and help you gain insight into current competing theories and hypotheses.

What do the authors think the results mean? Do you agree? Do the authors identify any weaknesses in the study? Do you see any?	
What is the importance of this scientific work? Explain the significant contributions of this study as reported by the authors.	