

Part 3: Summarizing Relevant Research

Go to the **Student Resources** page of the **LIMPETS** website for a list of relevant articles with links. If you need other resources, try searching on www.GoogleScholar.com.

Reading and understanding a scientific article is a complex task. It seems counterintuitive, but reading an article from start to finish is NOT the best strategy.

1. Read the ABSTRACT. Decide if it is relevant enough to keep reading. You might have to read a few abstracts to find articles related to your question.
2. Once you find a relevant article, read the INTRODUCTION next.
3. Skim the METHODS.
4. Skim the RESULTS, taking time to look carefully at the graphs. You may need to look at the Methods again to understand the graphs.
5. Read the DISCUSSION.
6. Take NOTES while you are reading. Taking notes will not only help you clarify your thoughts, it will also save you a lot of time when you start writing the text for your science communication project.

Summary of Research Article #1

1. Title:
2. What is the author's main question?
3. Why does the author feel that the question is important?
4. Method (circle):
Observing nature | Experiment | Both

5. What are the main findings?
6. How is this article relevant to your question?
7. Sketch the graph that is relevant to your question.

Summary of Research Article #2

1. Title:
2. What is the author's main question?
3. Why does the author feel that the question is important?
4. Method (circle):
Observing nature | Experiment | Both
5. What are the main findings?
6. How is this article relevant to your question?
7. Sketch the graph that is relevant to your question.

Don't forget to label the x-axis and y-axis!