In this video, we are going to talk about how to read a scientific article.

Scientific articles, sometimes referred to as scholarly articles peer reviewed articles or academic articles, often form the backbone of scientific research.

These articles are typically 20-50 pages in length and can contain highly specialized scientific information making them at times difficult to navigate and understand. These articles will often use jargon or terminology used by experts in the field. If you're not sure of the meaning of a word- it's okay to look it up!

Because of the unique nature of scientific articles, it can be helpful to read them in a slightly different order than you would typically read other resource types. Instead of reading the article in order from beginning to end – it's okay to jump around a little. Scientific articles are usually divided into standardized sections like the abstract, introduction, literature review, method, results, and discussion. However it is important to remember that not all articles will use the same language to identify these sections and you may have to do some digging to identify these parts of an article.

When approaching a scientific article -

Start by reading the abstract – this will give you a summary of the article including the author's research question, how them came to their findings, and what those findings were. The abstract will help you determine if this article relates to your own research question.

Next, read the introduction – this will help you get a deeper idea of the author's research question and give you, the reader, context needed to understand where the research sits in the wider field of study.

Now, jump to the conclusion or discussion section – this will allow you to learn about the findings of the research that was conducted and the conclusions that were made by the author.

After reading the beginning and end of the article, take a look and skim the middle of the article. This may include the methods (which will tell you how the author conducted their research and collected their data) and results (that will provide details on the data that was collected and may include graphs or figures).

As you read through your article, make sure to take notes that you can return to later.

If you need extra guidance on reading these articles, be sure to reach out to your subject librarian who can guide you along the way.