
Over the course of most semesters, you will typically need to read a number of articles from the primary literature. In general, a college science student must be comfortable reading the primary literature. The literature will provide you with background information for developing your own research questions and specific methodologies for your own experiments. For this course in particular, you should use articles from the primary literature as examples of a finished product to help guide you as you write your own article.

Reading and writing primary literature articles are difficult for both experienced and beginning scientists. Journal articles can be complicated and confusing to read, but before you give up on understanding their content, make sure you can answer each of the five questions listed below. Furthermore, before you hand in your own writing, you should read over it and make sure that you have provided the reader with answers to the questions listed below.

**For this homework, read through the article listed above and turn in your answers to the questions listed below.**

1. What is the main question?

2. What are the hypotheses and predictions?

3. Do the methods in the article produce data that will help evaluate the hypotheses and predictions? Would you do anything different?

4. Are the conclusions consistent with the data?

5. What is the logical extension of the study? What would you do next?