READING

READING AND UNDERSTANDING TECHNICAL ARTICLES:

GUIDELINES TO READ TECHNICAL ARTICLES:

QUICKLY IDENTIFY WHAT THE AUTHOR IS CLAIMING TO SAY,

- What is the problem?
- Is the problem all that important?

QUICKLY STATE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE CLAIM

- Is this a significant (radical or revolutionary) insight?
- What is your intuition about whether the proposed insight/solution is likely to work?
- What evidence would convince you?

DETERMINE WHAT EVIDENCE IS PRESENTED TO SUPPORT THE AUTHOR'S CLAIM

- Was the evidence you sought presented?
- If not, what evidence was presented?

DECIDE WHETHER THE EVIDENCE IS CONVINCING

- Was the evidence complete, reasonable, and believable?
- Do you trust the conclusion the author reached based on his data?

DETERMINE THE MAJOR CONCEPTS, KEYWORD, FACTS PRESENTED

• Did the author define any new terms?

• Do you agree with the term definitions?

IENTIFY THINGS ABOUT THE ARTICLE WITH WHICH YOU DISAGREE

• Is there anything in your experience that would cause you to still disagree with the author?

RE-EVALUATE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE ARTICLE

- Has your opinion of the article changed?
- What additional information do you need?

IDENTIFY THE WAYS IN WHICH THE ARTICLE HAS INCREASED YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM OR OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Have you profited from reading this article?
- In what ways?
- List 2-3 new things you learned.

LIST THE IDEAS THAT ARE STILL UNCLER ABOUT THE ARTICLE

- List 2-3 things you still don't understand.
- For each, think about how you would go about resolving the question.
- Paraphrase, in one paragraph, what the article is saying.

DETERMINE THE MAIN IDEA YOU CAN USE FROM THE ARTICLE

- Did you try to apply the articles ideas to a small instance of the problem?
- Could you reach a similar result as the author?
- If not, why do you think you failed?

• Style of paper: Essay, experiment, survey

