**Quick and Dirty Tips for Reading Research**

**Reading Scholarly Articles**
- Remember to read the article with your inquiry question in mind
- Read the article with a pen or pencil in hand to mark…
  - Passages in the article that relate to your inquiry question
  - Moments in the article that are confusing or you have questions about
  - Terminology in the article you are unsure of
- Avoid using a highlighter
  - It can be too tempting to highlight everything in the article
- Closely read the introduction of the article
  - The introduction sets the tone of the article and most often contains the writer’s controlling idea
- Identify the writer’s controlling idea (a.k.a. thesis statement or central claim)
  - Locating the controlling idea will help you recognize the organization of the article
  - It’s perfectly fine to skim sections of the article unrelated to your inquiry question
- Pay close attention to the conclusion of the article
  - This is where the writing makes broader, more global connections to their work
- Mine the Bibliography or Works Cited pages
  - This is a great way to identify other useful sources

**Reading Scholarly Books**
- Remember to read the book with your inquiry question in mind
- Examine the Table of Contents and Index for appropriate chapters and subjects
- Thoroughly read the book’s introduction to identify the writer’s overall controlling idea (a.k.a. thesis statement or central claim)
  - Reading the introduction will also help you decide which chapters—if any—you will need to read
  - Remember you do not need to read the whole book
- Read the book with a pen or pencil in hand to take notes on…
  - Passages in the book that relate to your inquiry question
  - Moments in the book that are confusing or you have questions about
  - Terminology in the book you are unsure of
- Mine the Bibliography
  - This is a great way to identify other useful sources

**Reading Popular Sources (a.k.a. Newspapers and Magazines)**
- Remember to read the article with your inquiry question in mind
- Read the article with a pen or pencil in hand to mark…
  - Passages in the article that relate to your inquiry question
  - Moments in the article that are confusing or you have questions about
  - Terminology in the article you are unsure of
- Avoid using a highlighter
  - It can be too tempting to highlight everything in the article

**Still need help?**
- Visit any KU Libraries location
- Instant message with KU Libraries staff at http://www.lib.ku.edu/askalibrarian

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