Skimming and Scanning for Information

**Skimming** – You quickly identify the main ideas of an article by reading the first and last paragraph, looking at the headings and titles, looking at the charts and pictures, possibly reading the first sentence of each section or paragraph. You let your eyes jump ahead and around to catch the key ideas.

**Scanning** – You move your eyes around quickly to locate specific points/words/keywords to determine if the information you need is actually in the article. You look for the specific names/dates/places/keywords that you have identified as important.

As you are skimming and scanning, think about the 5 W’s: Who, What, Where, When, Why – are they in there? Does this article provide the right information? If the answer is YES then it is time to actually read the article!

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**First Amendment**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment contains the cherished freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. But these rights to religious and political expression and to free speech are limited. The government must evaluate an individual’s freedom of expression against community interests, concern for public safety, and national security interests.

After years of being ignored by government and the courts, the First Amendment has emerged as the amendment that the public most closely associates with the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to U.S. Constitution), standing as a statement of the core values of American freedom and democracy. It serves as our blueprint for personal liberty.

**Ratification Facts**

**Proposed:**

Submitted by Congress to the states on September 25, 1789, along with the other nine amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights.

**Ratification:**

Ratified by the required three-fourths of states (eleven of fourteen) on December 15, 1791. Declared to be part of the Constitution on December 15, 1791.

**Ratifying states:**

New Jersey, November 20, 1789; Maryland, December 19, 1789; North Carolina, December 22, 1789; South Carolina, January 19, 1790; New Hampshire, January 25, 1790; Delaware, January 28, 1790; New York, February 24, 1790; Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790; Rhode Island, June 7, 1790; Vermont, November 3, 1791; Virginia, December 15, 1791 (amendment adopted).
How to read and take notes on a database or news article

Steps for taking notes:

1. Highlight the citation information (author, newspaper/source title, date, etc).

2. Look for three things to highlight:
   - Information that is surprising or startling (fact, quotation, statistic, etc...)
   - Information that is interesting or important to you…. remember, this is your research
   - Information that answers a specific question you need answer

*Note on highlighting: Do not go crazy; try to highlight no more than 10 percent of the article*

3. Make annotations (notes) in the margin – a few words – to remind yourself why you highlighted it.

Summary:

1. Turn over the article immediately after reading it.

2. Write a one-to-two-paragraph summary of the article in your own words. This summary will cover the information you found important and relevant to your topic. Use the highlighted parts and your notes to remind yourself of the important information.

The Big Picture:

Why do this with each article? Because it is fresh in your mind, you will remember best right now!

What do I do with all these summaries? They can be the start of your writing process and become some of the text of your paper. You now “own” this understanding and can use it in your work (with citations).

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The First Amendment protects the fundamental right of religious, speech, press, assembly, and petition. It guarantees freedom of speech and expression and allows peaceful protest. The government must balance an individual's freedom of expression against community interests, concerns for public safety, and national security interests.

After years of being ignored by governments and the courts, the First Amendment has emerged as the amendment that the public most clearly associates with the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution), standing as a statement of the core values of American freedom and democracy. It serves as our "protect for personal liberty.

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- New Jersey, November 26, 1789.
- Maryland, December 19, 1789.
- North Carolina, December 22, 1789.
- South Carolina, January 10, 1790.
- New Hampshire, January 21, 1790.
- Delaware, January 28, 1790.
- New York, February 6, 1790.
- Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790.
- Rhode Island, June 7, 1790.
- Virginia, December 15, 1791.