Most common types of scientific papers:

- Original research articles (field, clinical, or laboratory research)
- Case reports
- Technical notes
- Research reviews (systematic reviews, meta-analyses, literature reviews)

Major parts of scientific papers—IMRAD:

Introduction [including the abstract and literature review]

Methods

Results

And

Discussion [including recommendations]

References and footnotes are also key components

Beginning reading strategy:

1. Read the title and abstract.
2. Skim the article, noticing headers and sections, as well as graphics [preview step].
3. Quickly read the introduction, the results, and the discussion to get the big picture—the results section may even be skimmed until you know the discipline better. Having the big picture will help you with understanding the details later on.
4. Re-read for detail and make notes or mark the paper on important points—scientific papers are complex and densely written, even the “experts” don’t expect themselves to remember everything.
5. Summarize the article in your own words in 2-5 sentences. This will help push the information into long-term memory.