*APA citation of journal article*:

**The Basics:**

1. What was the broad question being asked by this research project? What was the specific question being asked by this research project?
   1. Summarize the background information on the research topic in three sentences.
   2. What is the gap in the literature identified by the researchers? What question(s) are they trying to answer? What is their hypothesis and what should happen if the author’s hypothesis is true?
   3. What are alternative hypotheses?
2. What experiments were done to test the hypothesis or investigate the research question?
   1. Explain the task design – what are participants instructed to do and what is being measured? Think about the independent and dependent variables.
3. What evidence supports each of the conclusions?
   1. Before you read the discussion, summarize the main findings and link each one back to the research question(s). How does each result inform the hypothesis?
4. What are the major conclusions?
   1. What do the results add to the field? How do the researchers interpret their findings? Summarize any limitations identified by the researchers.

**The Critique:**

1. Is the paper well written? How do you know?
2. Do the conclusions seem logical given the data processed? Why or why not? Another way of thinking about this: do the results adequately support the conclusions that are drawn? Are there alternative explanations for the findings? What inferences about the hypotheses and questions can be made based on these results?
3. Are the conclusions important? How do you think this relates to everyday behavior?
4. What were the best aspects of the research presented, and how could the research be improved? Name at least one way to improve the experiment.
5. How would you follow-up this experiment or study?

**Additional Resources:** What are the basic concepts that you need to know to understand the science presented in your paper? What other information or resources would help you better understand the paper? This is helpful to consider for your science communication pieces.

**Further Questions:**

Write at least five comments or questions about the article to discuss with the class.