vi basics

<u>From the Command Line</u>
To open an existing file, or create a new named file:
vi *filename*

In place of *filename* type the full name, including any extension, such as .txt.

<u>vi Modes</u>
When using vi, you can only use the keyboard. Your mouse doesn't move the cursor. You have to type all commands and use the arrow keys (or keyboard shortcuts) to navigate.

vi operates in two modes:
- Command mode: actions like saving the file or exiting the program
- Insert mode: editing the file

You're in command mode when vi starts. If you type, likely nothing will happen, or you'll see errors at the bottom of the screen. You need to enter insert mode to edit the file.

To enter insert mode, hit the i key. You won't see anything typed on screen, but INSERT will appear at the bottom of the screen while you're in insert mode.

In insert mode, you can use the arrows to navigate in the file and use the keyboard to type and edit the file.

To exit insert mode and enter command mode, hit the esc key (escape: usually upper left esc key on your keyboard).

<u>In Command Mode</u>:
If you're in command mode, the following commands will appear at the bottom of the screen as you type them.

Exit vi if you haven't changed the file:
:q

Save any changes and exit vi:
:wq

Exit vi without saving changes:
:q!

<u>Stuck?</u>
Hit the escape key several times, then use the commands above to exit.

<u>More info</u>
https://www.cs.colostate.edu/helpdocs/vi.html