

## Information Literacy Tip – Ask yourself stupid questions

**As you read, don't be afraid to stop and ask yourself "stupid" questions!**

### **Why:**

- Scholarly articles and books can be hard to understand!
- There are words you won't know.
- The author will assume you know concepts that you never heard of
- It might just be badly written or argued
- Maybe it's not relevant to your research

**What can you do?** Don't force yourself to keep going and read the entire article. When you don't understand something, or it doesn't seem right, stop and ask yourself these "stupid" questions:

- Where did I get lost or stuck?
- Was it a word I didn't know?
- Is there some concept here I don't get?
- Maybe this is not an appropriate article:
  - What's my research thesis or question?
  - Why did I think this article would be useful?
  - What is the article's purpose?
  - Can I find what I need here?

The idea for this tip came from the book *Mind Performance Hacks: Tips & Tools for Overclocking Your Brain* by Ron Hale-Evans.