Scientific Articles Flow Chart

Keep in mind that scientific articles and scientific literature can vary in length and format, and that there are more “types” than the five or six that are the focus of today’s workshop. However, for the purposes of this exercise, you may wish to use the following flow chart to help you decide on the type of article you have.

1. Is the article published in a magazine or a newspaper? (eg. Time)
   - Yes: Popular press article
   - No: Is the article less than a page in length?
     - Yes: Science news article
     - No: Does the article use a “personal” tone? (eg. “Would you let 50 bees crawl on your arm?”)
       - Yes: Does the article have a layout/the section headings that correspond to those you would see in a lab report? (ie. Introduction, Materials, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References)
         - Yes: Primary research article
         - No: Is the article’s main purpose to compile or summarize the results of many studies?
           - Yes: Review article
           - No: General science article

2. Is the article less than a page in length?
   - Yes: Science news article
   - No: Is the article published in a magazine or a newspaper? (eg. Time)
     - Yes: Popular press article
     - No: Does the article use a “personal” tone? (eg. “Would you let 50 bees crawl on your arm?”)
       - Yes: Does the article have a layout/the section headings that correspond to those you would see in a lab report? (ie. Introduction, Materials, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References)
         - Yes: Primary research article
         - No: Is the article’s main purpose to compile or summarize the results of many studies?
           - Yes: Review article
           - No: General science article