**Skimming and Scanning**

This activity is meant to have students practice how to skim and scan articles quickly in order to:

1. Come up with questions surrounding a given topic.
2. Quickly skim articles in order to build background knowledge and to decide which sources are of most value.

To do:

1. Identify a topic that you would like students to learn about. You could also choose many topics and have kids work in topic-based small groups.
2. Print out many articles on that topic, 8-10 is a good amount, but student ability level may impact this choice. This works well with newspaper articles, and with articles from a range of perspectives.
3. Tell students the topic. They should have some really basic background knowledge about the topic, but not too much. Ask them to develop one or two questions about the topic. More open-ended questions are better than purely factual information.
4. Arrange the set of articles in front of a small group of kids. Give them some time (10-15 minutes?) to skim and scan the articles, looking for the answers to their questions.
5. Debrief with the students:
   1. Were you able to answer your questions? What did you learn?
   2. What strategies did you use to pick which articles to read? Which strategies were effective? Why?
   3. Which articles were more effective than others? Is there a reason for this?
   4. Is there anything in the articles that surprised you or changed your thinking about the topic?