GUIDELINE FOR SELECTION OF A RESEARCH PAPER FOR PRESENTATION
(Excerpted from T. Danahy, Nanuet Senior High School)

Selecting an appropriate article for presentation can be a daunting task for a student new to research. While any Ph.D. level article can be presented, many articles are much harder to present than others. Literature review-type papers, while valuable for their multiple reference citations, are not suitable for a student presentation and should be avoided. We suggest choosing several research articles and applying the following key to help select the best one for presentation:

- Read the abstract.
  - If the topic is of interest – continue.
  - If not – stop – find another article.

- Find and read the hypothesis or statement of purpose of the article (usually in the last paragraph of the introduction).
  - If it is well-defined and interesting – continue.
  - If not – stop – find another article.

- Find and read the methodology section.
  - If methods are spelled-out in clear detail – continue.
  - If not – stop – find another article.

- Review the data presented.
  - If good charts or graphs are presented or if data is neatly organized into tabular form – continue.
  - If not – stop – find another article.

- Review the conclusion(s) (may be found in a ‘conclusion’ section or in the ‘discussion’ section).
  - If the conclusion(s) relate to each hypothesis (either support or fails to support) – this paper could be used.
  - If not – find another article.

If you really must speed up the selection process, find an adequate abstract, hypothesis, and conclusion before reading the entire article.
PRESENTATION OF A RESEARCH ARTICLE

There are certain stages in the presentation of a well written research article that are universal. These need to be modeled first by the director of research and then by the student.

INTRODUCTION: Cite the author, title, and article (journal name, date, volume, and pages). You should also state the topic and the purpose of the research. Then acquaint the audience with the general problem that the author is addressing. You may reverse the order of the above

REVIEW OF LITERATURE: Review the literature that the article’s author based the work on (what other research in this area has shown). This material is found in the introduction to the article. This is the time to define terms where appropriate.

HYPOTHESES or PROBLEM STATEMENT: In very specific terms, tell what the experimenter thought would happen or what she/he set out to do.

METHODOLOGY: What are the methods and materials that were used? Here, you may wish to use a chart to show the progress of the experiment in terms of what the author did.

RESULTS: Clearly identify any graphs showing dependent and independent variables. Lead the audience through any charts explaining them as you go. Describe any data tables and what the data mean.

DISCUSSION: Indicate what conclusions the author drew from his results, to either support or fail to support his hypothesis. If a hypothesis is shown to be in error, what new hypothesis is proposed?

CONCLUSION: State clearly which hypotheses were supported and which were not. Also state the resolution of the work.
**Format for Presentation of a Research Article**

Your presentation should follow the format:

**Introduction** - 1 or 2 slides – 1 to 2 minutes

**Review of Literature** - 2 to 4 slides (this is a list of articles that were important to the author. These are found cited in the intro section of the article and they lead to the hypothesis. – 1 to 2 minutes

**Hypothesis or statement of purpose** - 1 or 2 slides - .5 to 1 minute

**Methodology** - 4 to 6 slides - 3 or 4 minutes

**Data/results** - 4 to 6 slides - 3 or 4 minutes

**Discussion** - 2 to 4 slides - 1 to 2 minutes

**Conclusion** - 1 or 2 slides - about a minute

Please keep in mind that the whole presentation should take twelve minutes.