Tips for deciding if an article is Primary or Secondary Research

**Primary**
- Authors are reporting on their own research findings. *(Authors did the work = primary)*
- Most primary research articles will start with a brief review of previous research, but then will focus in on their specific study.
- Article title is very descriptive and focused on the specifics of the study. For example:
  - “Suppression of angiogenesis and tumor growth by selective inhibition of angiopoietin-2.”
- Often have Methods and Results sections.
- Authors might make statements saying:
  - “I found…” or “We investigated…”
- Article (and abstract) often report specific numbers. For example:
  - n=19 P < 0.0001 10%

**Secondary**
- Often called “review” articles, these articles summarize findings and knowledge gained from other people’s research studies. *(Authors didn’t conduct the research themselves = secondary)*
- Article title covers a broader area. For example:
  - “Sunlight and vitamin D for bone health and prevention of autoimmune diseases, cancers, and cardiovascular disease”
- No Methods and Results sections.
- Authors might make statements saying:
  - “Previous studies found….” or “We reviewed the literature… “
- Abstract is less likely to report specific numbers.

**Tips for deciding if a Primary Research article used Qualitative or Quantitative methods**

**Qualitative**
- The researcher deals with data in the form of words.
- Researcher is the data gathering instrument.
- Methods such as focus groups or interviews may be used.
- **Subject / Abstract terms:** Qualitative Studies; Interviews; Content Analysis; Questionnaires; Focus Groups; Grounded Theory; Ethnography

**Quantitative**
- The researcher deals with data in the form of numbers and statistics.
- Researcher uses tools, such as questionnaires or equipment to collect numerical data.
- **Subject / Abstract Terms:** Coefficient; Statistics; Multiple Regression; Two-Tailed Test; ANOVA