## NAVIGATING WORKPLACE DOCUMENTS:

## THE THINKING PROCESS

- Look over the document and think about how it's *organized*
- ▶ *Skim\** to get a general impression: the "big picture"
- Question yourself: What am I looking for? What am I being asked to find?
- Identify *key words and phrases* that will lead you to the information you need
- Make *predictions* of where the information will be found in the document and the most effective route to finding it
- Where available, use document organizers such as Tables of Contents or Indexes – as aids
- Continue to make *predictions* and look for clues (titles, sub-titles, headings, graphics, etc)
- ▶ *Scan*\*\* to locate and match the key words and phrases
- Read the information, making a mental note of the details, and *summarize* in your own words
- Confirm: Have you found the information that is needed? Does this answer your question?





## SKIM

\* When I Skim I am reading quickly to get a general impression or the main idea. I am reading 3 to 4 times faster than normal, looking for and making mental note of document organization and key words and phrases, and creating an outline of the information in my mind.

## **SCAN**

\*\* When I Scan I am reading quickly to find a specific piece of information. I am moving my eyes quickly across the page, looking for specific words or phrases that signal to me that I have found the information I want.

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