

ACT Science Section Tips

- **Data Representation: Find the Variables**
 - Find the independent and dependent variables
 - Find the units
 - Look for a trend—how does the independent variable affect the dependent variable?
 - Remember there isn't always a trend
 - Don't spend a lot of time reading the passage. Just skim it.
- **Research Summaries: Find the Variables**
 - Find the objective of the experiment by defining the independent and dependent variables
 - Understand the results: How did changing the independent variables affect the dependent variables?
 - Find which setup was the control—independent variable is “left alone”
- **Conflicting Viewpoints: Find the Main Points**
 - Identify the disagreements
 - What is the main point of each view? How do they differ?
 - What supporting evidence does each viewpoint use? Is it strong or weak evidence?
 - Identify agreements between viewpoints.
 - If viewpoints are complicated: read one, answer questions for that viewpoint before reading next view.
- **Key concepts for all sections**
 - Don't let the scientific jargon confuse you—if it doesn't make sense, ignore it.
 - Wrong answers to look out for
 - Distortions (like on reading test)
 - Answers that make sense in the real world, but aren't supported by the data or passage
 - Answers that over-generalize
 - Answers that are true but aren't relevant to question