When reading an article, ask yourself:

- for what kind of audience is it intended?
- what are the overt/covert goals/biases of the author? what are her/his credentials?
- how much peer-review*? (can assume how much depending on type of publication and type of article)
- are the assumptions behind the claims applicable to your situation?
- what kind of evidence is offered?:
  - controlled experiment or testing
  - mathematical proof
  - one or more case studies (author's or others' experience)
  - implementation of ideas to demonstrate feasibility
  - rational argument and examples
  - citations to other published work

*Note: peer-review is a review by several (often anonymous) readers with expertise in the subject area. The reviewers are assigned by the publication editor or conference program chair. Some conferences not only require peer-review, but the identity of the author is withheld from the reviewers to ensure fairness. Most academic journals and conference are peer-reviewed. Technical books may or may not be.