

# Questions to answer while reading research

To evaluate research articles, use this list of questions to help you identify strengths and limitations.

## Introduction and literature review

- Is the hypothesis or aim of the research clear?
- Do the researchers clearly show that their study is meeting a need or filling a gap in our knowledge?
- Do the researchers show how their study builds on previous research?

## Method

- Is any theoretical framework explained and justified?
- Is the study design made clear? For example, is it a randomised controlled trial? A longitudinal study? A systematic review?
- Is a rationale given for the chosen method?
- Is the research ethical?
- How detailed is the methods section? Are any steps missing or unclear? For example, how big is the sample? Is enough information given about participants?
- Do the researchers explain how they control variables?

## Results

- Are data analysis tools identified?
- Are the steps in the data analysis explained and justified?
- Are the results relevant to the aim?
- Are the results explained?
- Do tables and graphs support the explanation?

## Discussion and conclusions

- Are claims or conclusions supported by the results?
- Do the researchers discuss the extent of their success in testing the hypothesis or meeting their aims?
- Do the researchers discuss the limitations of their study?
- Does the discussion section contribute to scholarly debate on the topic?

## Other questions

- Where was the research conducted? Would the results be different if it occurred in a different place?
- How do these results compare with other research papers?