

Checklist for the critical evaluation of a research paper

- 1) Abstract / Summary. Has the author correctly summarized the study? Are the following items included?:
 - 1.1) Statement of topic and purpose
 - 1.2) Description of the participants, materials and procedures
 - 1.3) Explanation of analytical methodology (f.i. statistical analysis...)
 - 1.4) Summary of results and implications
- 2) Introduction: Is the framework for the study clear?
- 3) Literature review: Can you tell where the study fits in?
 - 3.1) Is the background rationale provided?
 - 3.2) Is the relationship to previous research clear?
 - 3.3) Statement of purpose: Can you tell where the study is heading to?
 - 3.4) Are any of the following included:
 - 3.4.1) Purpose or aim of study
 - 3.4.2) Research questions
 - 3.4.3) Research hypotheses
- 4) Method: Is the study replicable?
 - 4.1) Subjects: Is the description of participants adequate? Is the method of selection clear?
 - 4.2) Materials: Is there any description of tests, questionnaires, etc.? Is there any description of any equipment (when applicable)?
 - 4.3) Procedures: Is there any description of the preparation of materials, administration, scoring, etc.? Is there any description of the conditions during the study?
 - 4.4) Analyses: Is there any description of the arrangement and grouping of the data? Are the statistical data listed in order of use?
- 5) Results: Are the statistical tests previously listed represented as results? Is there an explanation?
- 6) Discussion / Conclusion:
 - 6.1) Is(are) the original research question(s) answered?
 - 6.2) Are the hypotheses supported or rejected?
 - 6.3) Is there an explanation of why the results were as they were?
 - 6.4) Are the methodological limitations of the study mentioned?
 - 6.5) Are there suggestions for further research?
- 7) References, notes and footnotes
 - 7.1) Are all references cited in the text included?
 - 7.2) Are any pertinent references missing?
- 8) Appendixes: Are they necessary? Are they complete?