

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING A RESEARCH ARTICLE**

INTRODUCTION – **Why** did they start?

- ✚ Why is this research important? Is it justified (review of literature?)
- ✚ What is the research question/s of interest (purpose/objectives) or hypothesis?
- ✚ Terms defined?

METHODS – **What** did they do?

- ✚ Sufficient details for the replication of the study?
- ✚ What's the study design?
- ✚ Have the data collection procedures and instruments described?
- ✚ Who is the sample population? Does this population place any limits on the generalizability of the results? Was the sampling procedure/subject selection described?
- ✚ Sample size?
- ✚ How was their sample assessed? Was the measure validated?
- ✚ Does the study design have any control group?
- ✚ Is the time frame adequate to answer the research question?

RESULTS – **What** did they find?

- ✚ Were the number of subjects in each group or subgroup used in the analysis specified? Were the subject characteristics summarized?
- ✚ Did the results relate to the specified objective/hypotheses?
- ✚ Do the tables and figures “speak for themselves?”
- ✚ Are the tables adequately titled, labeled?

DISCUSSION – **What** do the results mean?

- ✚ Did authors discuss the results in relations to the objectives/hypotheses?
- ✚ Were the results discussed in relation to those from similar studies?
- ✚ Are the authors justified in the strength of the statements they make in the study? Did they offer alternative explanations for results?

REFERENCES – **Are** they comprehensive and current?

### **Just a note:**

Not all of these questions apply to all of the articles, nor are these the only questions to ask about a study. These are just some ideas to get you started. These questions represent an approach to critically evaluating the research literature.