

IMPROVING PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH LITERACY

what does this mean?

- tentative conclusions drawn from the best current evidence
- may change depending on:
 - research methods & statistical tests used
 - where, when, and by whom the research was conducted

look for cumulative & converging evidence

what type of significance?

- $P < .05$ conveys statistical significance, NOT importance of an effect for you or the world
- effect sizes convey how large or strong an effect is both matter!

Research finds making your bed makes you significantly happier

Is this claim valid?

- two things being related (i.e., correlation) does not mean that one causes the other (i.e., causation)
- only experiments can establish causality

look for experimental manipulations

For whom does this finding apply?

- participants are often WEIRD: from Westernized, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, & Democratic societies
- research findings may not apply to non-WEIRD populations

look for demographics of the study sample



How was this construct measured?

- operational definitions
 - how the construct was measured or manipulated in a research study
 - can differ between studies

look for measures/items used