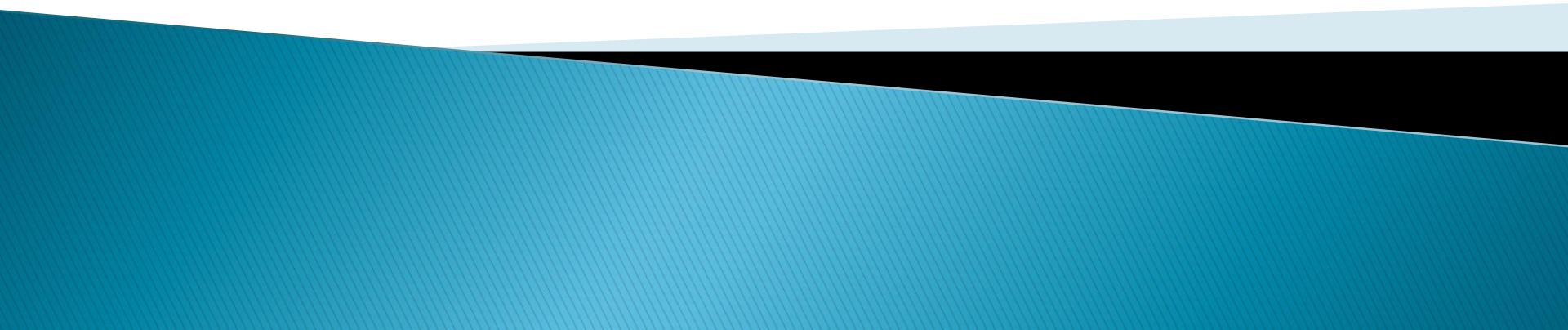


Integrating Research with Practice

Selecting a paper for critical analysis



Selecting your research article

- ▶ One of the most important tasks in completing a critical review is selecting the right article.
- ▶ It is essential that you give yourself enough time to read through several articles so you can select one that meets the following criteria.

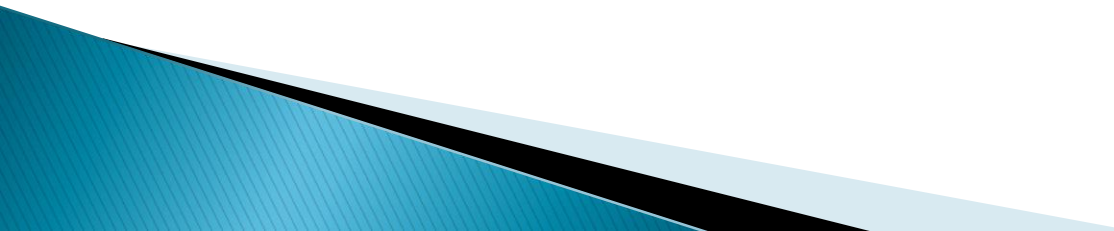


Characteristics of a good article

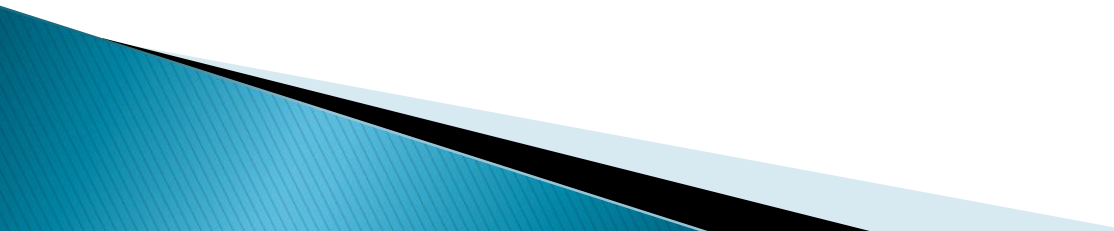
1. It is a **research** article.

- Not all articles published in journals are research articles.

For example:

- Review papers: provide an overview of the research thus far on a particular area and pose questions for future research.
 - Meta-analyses: provide a synthesis of the results of many studies to produce an indication of what the overall findings are.
 - Theoretical papers: explain a theoretical perspective.
 - Book reviews: review recent books that are related to topics published in the journal.
- 

Characteristics of a good article

- ▶ It is a research article if:
 - The authors propose to answer a research question at the end of the introduction.
 - The authors include a method section includes the participants.
 - There are original data collected for the purposes of the study (not just an analysis of data from other studies).
 - The research question is evaluated in light of the data obtained.
- 

Characteristics of a good article

2. It is relatively current.

- Ideally, your article should be no more than 10 years old.

3. It is on a topic that interests you.

- This allows you to use the assessment not only to practice your critical review skills, but to extend your knowledge in a particular area.

4. You understand it.

- Some articles are much more complex than others.
- Select one for which you understand the research question and the methodology used
 - or be prepared to do some extra reading to figure out what it all means.

Parts of a research article

▶ Title

- Provides a brief overview of what the article is about.

▶ Abstract

- Provides a brief (200 words or less) summary of the research question, the methodology, the results, and interpretation of results.

▶ Introduction

- Reviews previous literature related to the current study.
 - Poses the research question.
- 

Parts of a research article

▶ Method

- Describes everything having to do with how the research was conducted:
 - Participants and setting
 - Definitions of variables
 - Measurement strategies
 - Analysis strategies
 - Procedure
 - Experimental design
- NB: Not all articles will have these specific headings.

Parts of a research article

▶ Results

- Provides a systematic description of the outcomes of the study.
- Often includes figures (e.g. graphs and tables).

▶ Discussion

- Begins with a summary of the purpose of the research and the main outcomes.
 - Relates the research study back to preceding literature.
 - Identifies particular strengths and weaknesses of the study.
 - Proposes questions for future research.
- 

Parts of a research article

► References

- Provides a list of all the sources cited in the study.

References

Anonymous. (2002). *Regional identity and behavior*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2005). *Mental health services in Australia 2002-03*. Canberra, ACT: Author.

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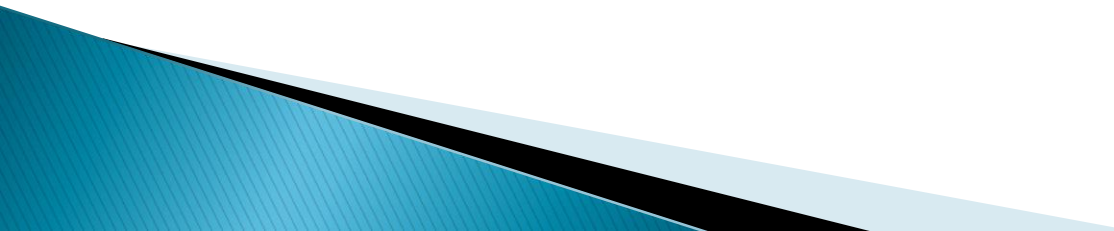
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Young, H. F., & Bentall, R. P. (1997a). Probabilistic reasoning in deluded, depressed and normal subjects: Effects of task difficulty and meaningful versus non-meaningful material. *Psychological Medicine*, 27(2), 455-465.

Young, H. F., & Bentall, R. P. (1997b). Social reasoning in individuals with persecutory delusions: The effects of additional information on attributions for the observed behaviours of others. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 36(4), 569-573.

Choosing a Paper

For critiquing purposes for your assignment choose:

- ▶ Subject of personal interest.
 - ▶ Subject relevant to area of study.
 - ▶ Predominantly qualitative study.
 - ▶ Avoid quantitative studies involving numerical data and statistical analysis.
 - ▶ Preferably British research.
 - ▶ Free access.
 - ▶ Current research (within no more than 5 to 10 years of present).
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Choosing a Paper

Where to find Research Papers:

- ▶ Findit – OPAC, eJournals, eDatabases e.g. Jstor, SwetsWise, Eric, Social Care Online.
 - ▶ Intute – www.intute.ac.uk
 - ▶ Social Care institute for Excellence – www.scie.org.uk
 - ▶ Google scholar – <http://scholar.google.co.uk>
 - ▶ British Library or other university libraries (may be cost involved in accessing these) also available through OPAC.
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