

# Critically Evaluating Research: Points to Remember

- ✓ Does the research provide a clear context and rationale for the study?
- ✓ Is there a review of existing literature and are you, as a reader, left with a good sense of what the existing literature does and doesn't say?
- ✓ Does the research clearly outline the research question?
- ✓ Does the research clearly indicate how the study was undertaken, including how data was collected, how participants were recruited (if participants were involved), what constituted 'data', how it was analysed?
- ✓ Are ethical considerations clearly described? Was ethics approval obtained (if not, why not)?
- ✓ For qualitative papers, is there evidence of reflexivity in the writing?
- ✓ Are the results clearly presented with evidence for how they were reached?
- ✓ Does the discussion critically reflect on the results in the context of what the existing literature had to say?
- ✓ Are limitations clearly outlined?
- ✓ Are implications for practice (if any) clearly outlined?
- ✓ Finally, if you reflect on the study taken as a whole, does it answer the 'so what' test (i.e., did you learn anything new)?