

Producing a Critical Synopsis of Research Evidence

Source: Author, date, title, publication details	
Why am I reading this?	
<i>Is this reading going to help me gain a better understanding of a 'problem in practice'?</i>	
<i>Is the reading to assist with making an evidence-based decision or for the purpose of academic study?</i>	
What is the author trying to achieve in writing this?	
<i>The author may have a range of differing purposes, including reporting on their own research, synthesising and evaluating the work of others, contributing to the development of theory, suggesting changes to practice.</i>	
<i>To what extent does any ideological or value stance taken by the author affect the claims?</i>	
What is the author claiming that is relevant to me?	What use can I make of this?
<i>What is the text actually about and what do the authors say about it?</i>	<i>How does this research contribute to my understanding of the problem in practice?</i>

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<p><i>How does the text relate to my own interests and problem of practice?</i></p>	<p><i>Is the research relevant to my context?</i></p> <p><i>Is there any evidence to suggest that the intervention might work in this school?</i></p>
<p>How convincing are these claims, and why?</p>	
<p><i>Are there any underpinning assumptions which have not been made explicit?</i> <i>Are the conclusions of the study supported by evidence?</i> <i>Does the evidence support the conclusion? Does the evidence suggest other conclusions?</i></p>	
<p>What is my next step?</p>	
<p><i>Does the research influence any decisions I need to make?</i> <i>Is this research worth sharing with colleagues?</i> <i>Should I undertake further reading? Should I seek further sources of contrary evidence?</i></p>	

Adapted from Wallace, M. and Wray, A. (2016). *Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates* (2nd ed.). London: Sage

FOSIL: Learning by finding out for yourself.

