

Questions for critically reading the primary literature

1. The main purpose of the article is (state concisely the author's purpose):

Are the goals clearly stated?

2. The key question(s) the author is addressing is/are:

3. The most important information in this article is:

4. The main inference/conclusions in the article are:

5. The key concepts we need to know in order to understand this article are:

6. The main assumptions (i.e., ideas the author is taking for granted) underlying the author's thinking are:

7. The conclusions:

Are they logical?

Are they clearly stated?

Do conclusions go beyond the data?

8. What are the greater implications of this work?

* From: Paul, R. and L. Elder. 2006. The miniature guide to critical thinking. Concepts and Tools. The Foundation for Critical Thinking. Dillon Beach, CA.