HOW TO EVALUATE ARTICLES AND JOURNALS

Ask yourself 6 key questions

WHAT?
What is the subject of the article?
Is it relevant to your research topic?
Does it add to the information you've already found or provide a new perspective?

WHEN?
When was the article published?
Is it recent enough for your research needs?

WHY?
Why was the article written—what is its purpose?
Is it presenting research, making an argument, or giving an opinion?

WHO?
Who wrote the article?
What credentials do they have?
Who is on the editorial board for the journal?
What credentials do they have?

WHERE?
Which journal published the article?
Is the journal published by a scholarly organization or academic publisher?
Where was the research conducted?
Would research in another country or region be relevant to your research topic?

HOW?
How have the authors conducted their research or made their arguments?
Do they describe their research methods and cite appropriate sources?

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