HOW DO I EVALUATE ARTICLES AND JOURNALS?
Ask 6 key questions

What?
When?
Where?
Who?
Why?
How?
What is the subject of the article?

You can generally find this information by looking at the article's abstract, either in Scholar OneSearch or a library database.
Was the research in the article conducted in another country? Would research conducted in another country or region be relevant to your research topic?
When was the article published?

You can usually find this date in Scholar OneSearch or within the article itself.
Is the publication date recent enough for your research needs?

Fields that change quickly, like medicine or technology, will typically require more recent sources, like those from the last few years.
Where was the article published?

Was it published in a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal or other authoritative source?
Where?

Not sure?

Look up the journal’s website to see their aims and scope, or check out our scholarly sources tutorials for information on how to check for the journal’s status.
Who wrote the article? 
What credentials do they have?

You can sometimes find this information in the article itself, but you may need to do a Google Scholar search for the author to discover his or her credentials and see the rest of the research.
What is the purpose of the article? Is it presenting research, reviewing the literature, or making an argument?

Not sure? You can typically look in the article’s abstract to find this information.
Why?

If the author is making an argument or giving an opinion, look carefully for signs of bias.

See if the author provides evidence or cites sources from both sides of a controversial issue.
How have the authors conducted their research or made their arguments? Do they describe their research methods and cite appropriate sources?

You can typically find this information in the abstract or methods sections of articles.
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