

1. In the past, you have learned about research findings and conclusions and should take
 account of what you are reading. In this section, you will learn more about research methodology,
 and you will be increasingly knowledgeable about the kinds of conclusions that are and are not
 warranted by various methodologies and types of data. At this point, you may be able to judge
 the work of other researchers only in a fairly superficial fashion. Even so, there's no better time
 than the present to begin examining other researchers' work with a critical eye. We suggest that
 you begin to sharpen your evaluation skills by locating several research articles relevant to your
 interests. As you read and study the articles, consider the questions in the following checklist.



CHECKLIST

Evaluating a Research Article

1. In what journal or other source did you find the article? Was it reviewed by experts in the field before it was published? That is, was the article in a *juried* (refereed) publication?

2. Does the article have a stated research question or problem? That is, can you determine the focus of the author's work?

3. Does the article describe the collection of new data, or does it describe and synthesize previous studies in which data were collected?

4. Is the article logically organized and easy to follow? What could have been done to improve its organization and readability?

