

# Is this research reliable?

## 1

### What is the source?

| Academic Journal       |                             | News Outlet                                    |  | Blog, Magazine, Social Media                                  |                                |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Less than 10 years old | More than 20 years old      | Reputable news outlet (but know their biases!) | Unknown news outlet, or heavily biased | Reputable source (.org, .gov, .edu)                           | Unknown source (.com or .net)  |
| Peer-reviewed          | Opinion or reflection piece | Lots of active links                           | Minimal links                          | Lots of active links-use these to get to the original source. | Sells a product or service     |
| Cited by others        | Not cited by others         | .org, .gov, or .edu                            | .com or .net                           | Lots of balanced, critical comments                           | Minimal links, lots of opinion |

## 2

### What is the purpose?

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| To educate<br>Research summaries, textbooks, training materials | To report<br>Research articles, technical reports, news reports (investigative) | To convince<br>Promotional materials, opinion pieces, argumentative pieces |
|---|---|--|

## 3

### Who did they study/include?

|               |               |                    |   |        |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| Random sample | Control Group | Convenience sample | Anyone who will gain from the research or article | No one |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---|--------|

## 4

### What methods did they use?

| Quantitative or experimental             |  | Quasi-experimental               |                                   | Qualitative                                  |  | No scientific methods |  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Control group                            | No control group                                   | No control group                 | Survey not tested for reliability | Observation or interviews                    | Highly biased  |                       |  |
| Intervention                             | Survey not described or not tested for reliability | May or may not have intervention | Methods not described             | Sources of bias explained                    | Participants disempowered, and/or from marginalized groups |                       |  |
| Survey/instrument tested for reliability | No pilot testing                                   | Survey tested for reliability    | No pilot testing                  | Participant input into findings              | Methods not clearly explained                              |                       |  |
| Pilot test                               | Lots of unexpected impacts                         | Might be program evaluation      | Lots of unexpected impacts        | Detailed description of methods and analysis |  |                       |  |
| Control of unwanted impacts              |  | Some control of unwanted impacts |                                   |  |  |                       |  |

## 5

### What does it recommend?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Realistic<br>Reasonable given the methods<br>Applicable<br>Free from opinion<br>Acknowledge bias and/or limitations | Strong and opinionated<br>Not connected to the methods<br>Not applicable<br>Biased<br>Do not acknowledge study limitations |
|---|--|