PERFORMING RESEARCH ARTICLE CRITIQUES

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

☐ What is the main question or hypothesis in this project?
☐ What is the purpose of this study - exploratory, descriptive or explanatory?
☐ Is this basic or applied research?
☐ What are the main concepts?
☐ How are the main concepts defined?
☐ Are they the right concepts for the question at hand?
☐ Are the relationships between concepts outlined? Why or why not?
☐ Are these relationships substantiated with evidence from previous studies and logic?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

☐ Is the presentation of relevant and logical?
☐ Is there a clear progression through support for key ideas to the value of the research question?
☐ Is the author's voice present in the debate found in the literature?
☐ Is there a clear argument in favor of this research?
☐ Is there evidence both for and against the value of key concepts and relationships?

RESEARCH DESIGN

☐ What research design is used?
☐ Is the research design appropriate for the question at hand?
☐ What is the unit of analysis?
☐ What sampling techniques are used?
☐ How are the concepts measured?
☐ Is the data quantitative or qualitative data?
☐ What collection methods are used?
☐ What is the time dimension in this research?

FINDINGS

☐ Are the data valid and reliable representations of the empirical reality they attempt to capture?
☐ How, if at all, are the data adjusted, i.e. weighted, summarized or grouped?
☐ How are the data reported?
☐ Are the data presented in a way that is understandable?
☐ Is the data presentation comprehensive or are selected aspects presented?

- ☐ What data analysis tools is employed?
- ☐ Are they the right tools for the level of measurement?
- ☐ Are any assumptions inherent in the analysis tools violated/
- ☐ Do the analysis tools provide information to support or refute

DISCUSSION

- ☐ What are the main points in the discussion?
- ☐ What aspects of the project are highlighted?
- ☐ Does the discussion illuminate the findings and apply them appropriately?

CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ What conclusions are drawn from the data?
- ☐ Are the conclusions a logical extension of the data?
- ☐ To whom or what do the conclusions apply?

ADDING TO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- ☐ What is the significance of this research?
- ☐ What might you have done differently?
- ☐ What still needs clarification/exploration?

These questions are guidelines for your article critiques. You may feel there are other questions you need to ask for your purposes. **It is essential that you question what is reported in a critical way.**