Literature evaluation criteria

1. **Potential bias/es that you could bring to your reading of the literature**
   - Be alert to confirmation bias
   - Have you considered any potential biases that you could bring to your reading?
   - Have you remained aware of any developing biases while you are reading?

2. **Relevance of literature to your research**
   - How will reading and using this work help you develop the knowledge necessary to conduct your own research?

3. **Credentials/expertise of the author/s**
   - Does the work have a clear author or sponsorship?
   - Are the authors/sponsors sufficiently expert to be providing input into the development of your knowledge base and your research?
   - Is the work peer reviewed?

4. **Clear and logical presentation of ideas and arguments**
   - Are the purposes of the work clearly articulated?
   - Are there appropriate and sufficient references to support assertions made or assumptions used?
   - If the topic is contentious, are different perspectives considered?
   - Are tables, diagrams, graphs, etc clear?
   - Do tables, diagrams, graphs, etc complement or clarify the text?
   - Is emotive language used?
   - Is experiment/survey data full discussed?
   - Are research conclusions consistent with the data, analysis and discussion presented?
5. **Quality of the evidence presented**
   - What kind of evidence is being presented?
   - Is the evidence up-to-date?
   - Is the evidence valid?
   - Is the evidence reliable?
   - If comparisons are made, are they meaningful?

6. **Quantity of the evidence presented**
   - Is evidence presented for all assertions and/or conclusions made?
   - Is the evidence presented sufficient, or do you need more evidence to judge the value of the work to your own knowledge development and research work?

7. **Writing mechanics**
   - Are there any spelling or grammatical errors?
   - Is the language suited to the audience?
   - Is referencing adequate and appropriate?
   - Consider the rule – *Never use two words when one word will do. And, never use a big word when a small word will do.*

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Criteria 3-7 have been developed from: