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.*