

Evaluating the Science

Research

Getting Started

- 1.** Locate research articles from reputable sources
 - a. Google Scholar Search Engine
 - b. University Library System (if you are a student or faculty)
 - c. PubMed (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>)
- 2.** Read the entire article, not just the Abstract and Conclusion
- 3.** Look at studies on both sides of the issue

Questions to Consider

- 1.** Who conducted the study? What are their biases?
- 2.** How many subjects participated in the study?
- 3.** Who were the participants?
- 4.** How long was the study?
- 5.** Are there other studies that show similar results?
- 6.** Do the results, tables, and graphs support the authors conclusion?

Food for Thought

- 1.** Correlation does not equal causation. Ice cream sales and shark attacks both increase in the summer (correlation). Does that mean eating ice cream causes shark attacks?
 - 2.** Be sure results can be applied to wider population and not just specific group studied.
 - 3.** Statistically significant is mathematical. Clinically significant is observable.
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