

# Reading a Study Critically

Political Science

Assessing a political science claim before accepting it.

*Questions to ask.*

## Design questions

What is the comparison being made

How were cases or respondents selected

How were key concepts measured

What alternative explanations were tested

Over what period and where

## Reporting flags

Causal language from correlational data

No confidence intervals reported

Subgroup findings without pre-specification

Only one specification presented

Educational reference. Ask what result would have been reported had the finding gone the other way. Often nothing would have been.