

## TEMPLATE FOR EVALUATING A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Paper Title	
Authors	
Date	
Reference (journal title, volume page numbers)	
How recent is the paper?	
Has the paper been peer reviewed?	
Is it a high impact journal?	
Is there any declaration of interest?	
<b>Overview</b>	
What is the research question?	
Why is it important?	
What was the main experimental/data collection method?	
What were the main findings?	
What is the significance of the findings?	

	Comments	Text location for evidence
<b>Introduction</b>		
Is there a clear background to the study in the context of current literature?		
What is the question to be addressed, is it clearly identified?		
Do the authors explain why the research was done?		
Is there a clear hypothesis being tested?		
<b>Methods</b>		
Is there a full description of how the experiments/observations were undertaken and the data collected?		
Are the protocols used referenced?		
Are any modifications fully described and justified?		
Are any limitations identified and allowed for?		
What statistical methods were used and why?		
Has ethical approval been granted (if required)?		
<b>Results</b>		
Are the results clearly described and presented through text, tables and figures?		
Do the data presented in the tables and figures support the statements of findings		

made in the text?		
Do the statistical analyses support the statements of findings made in the text?		
<b>Discussion</b>		
Are the results effectively interpreted in the context of the current literature?		
Is there sufficient evidence to enable acceptance or rejection of the initial hypothesis?		
Has the significance of the findings been clearly stated and explained?		
Are the claims for the significance of the research and the conclusions drawn justified?		
<b>References</b>		
Do all the references match with the in-text citations?		
Have the authors cited a relevant range of references, including current research?		
<b>Title and Abstract</b>		
Does the Title give a clear indication of the nature of the work?		
Does the Abstract give an accurate summary of the work done?		
If read on its own, would the Abstract allow the reader to understand the question(s) being asked, the core findings and their		

significance?		
Are the summary statements of findings and their significance justified in the detailed descriptions in the paper?		