**Is it Scholarly & Peer-Reviewed?**

Peer review is a **publication process** that ensures contributions made to the scholarly community are based on accurate, reliable, and original research findings and analysis:

1) Scholar(s) writes and submits article to an academic journal
2) The academic journal sends the research article to a panel of experts in the subject area or discipline
3) Experts review the article to ensure it is accurate, well-argued, and presents original research-based knowledge
4) Article is accepted for publication, returned to the author(s) for revisions, or rejected

**What is a Scholar?**
A highly educated specialist who conducts research in a particular branch of study

**What is Peer Review?**
The process by which scholars critically evaluate each other’s research article prior to publication in an academic journal.

**What is a Periodical?**
A type of publication produced as an open-ended series at regular intervals, or “periods,” such as daily, monthly, quarterly or annually

**What is an Academic Journal?**
A type of periodical that includes original research articles written by researchers and experts in a particular academic discipline, providing a forum for the production and critique of new and existing knowledge

**What is a Research Article?**
A formally written article that describes new knowledge or ideas based on original research, analysis and/or interpretation

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**Scholarly & Peer-Reviewed Article Checklist**

Ask these questions to confirm if a journal article has the characteristics of a scholarly and peer-reviewed article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) What is the appearance?</th>
<th>⇒ Plain appearance with minimal use of colour and no advertising</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⇒ Illustrations, graphs, charts and photographs used only to support the content of articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Who’s the author(s)?</td>
<td>⇒ Written by the person(s) who conducted the research or analysis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>⇒ Author(s) typically have advanced degrees, credentials, and/or affiliation with knowledge-based organizations such as healthcare centres, hospitals, universities, government or non-profit agencies</td>
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<td>3) What is the scope, purpose and intended audience?</td>
<td>⇒ Presents research studies and experiments or original theoretical analysis with a narrow, specific focus</td>
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<td>⇒ Provides new knowledge that advances what is understood or known in a specific subject area or discipline</td>
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<td>4) How is it written?</td>
<td>⇒ Uses complex, advanced language and an objective tone</td>
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<td>⇒ Assumes reader has sufficient education at the postsecondary level to understand abstract concepts and terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Is it lengthy with many cited sources?</td>
<td>⇒ Provides evidence to support claims through in-text citations, footnotes and/or endnotes</td>
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<td>⇒ Includes a reference list or bibliography</td>
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<td>⇒ Contains at least 5 full pages of text, typically within the range of 8-25 pages in total length</td>
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Applying the Checklist to a Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Article:

**Appearance** is plain and simple throughout, with minimal use of colour and no advertising.

**Title** is lengthy and specific.

**Abstract** describes the scope of the article using advanced language, describing the purpose and design of the research study.

**Authors** are affiliated with a university.

**Presents** an original research study with data and analysis of findings.

**Structured** with sections and subheadings indicating an original research study:

- Abstract
- Purpose
- Methods & Procedures
- Results
- Analysis & Conclusion

**Claims** are supported by in-text citations within the article and a long reference list at the end.

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**Evidence-Based Policy**

New Crime Coverage, Public Perception, and Public Policy

Literature reviews on crime coverage and public perception suggest that crime rates are influenced by media coverage. The study found a significant correlation between crime reporting and actual crime rates in the region. The findings highlight the need for more responsible and accurate crime reporting to maintain public trust.

Participants:
The survey was conducted among a random sample of the region's population. The results indicated a high level of awareness of crime issues among the respondents.

**Purpose** of the Study:

The purpose of this research is to understand the relationship between crime coverage and public perception. The study aims to identify the factors that influence public perception of crime and to explore the impact of media coverage on this perception.

**Method**:

A survey was conducted to gather data on crime coverage and public perception. The results were analyzed using statistical methods to identify significant correlations.

**Results**:

The analysis showed a strong correlation between crime reporting and public perception. The findings suggest that media coverage plays a significant role in shaping public perception of crime.

**Conclusion**:

The study highlights the importance of responsible crime reporting. The results suggest that media outlets should strive to provide accurate and balanced coverage to maintain public trust.

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**Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Policy for Canada: An Exploratory Study of Public Opinion and the Perspective of Mental Health and Legal Professionals**

N. Kate Bousfield, Alana N. Cook, and Ronald Roenck
Simon Fraser University

Abstract:

The study aimed to explore public opinion and the perspective of mental health and legal professionals regarding criminal justice policy in Canada. The findings suggest a need for evidence-based policy to improve public safety and mental health outcomes.

**Purpose**:

The purpose of the study is to examine public opinion and the perspective of mental health and legal professionals on criminal justice policy. The study aims to identify areas for improvement in policy development and implementation.

**Methods & Procedures**:

A qualitative research design was used to collect data through interviews and focus groups. The findings were analyzed using thematic analysis.

**Results**:

The analysis revealed a need for evidence-based policy in criminal justice to address public safety and mental health concerns. The findings highlight the importance of collaboration between mental health professionals and legal experts.

**Conclusion**:

The study concludes that a more evidence-based approach to criminal justice policy is necessary to address public safety and mental health issues. The results support the implementation of strategies to improve policy outcomes.

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**Citation**: