How to Write an Article Annotation or Critique

Summarize the study:

- **What question was the study trying to answer?**
  - Note: The introduction to a research article is usually the researchers’ literature review. The authors will summarize other research that supports the question they are trying to answer. You should not review their review. At the end of the introduction/review is usually a statement of what question/s the current study was attempting to answer. You should also note the type of study it was:
    - Quantitative?
    - Qualitative?
    - Meta-analysis?

- **Who were the people studied?**
  - Always include a summary of the participants included in the study because this affects the generalizability of the findings.

- **What did they do?** (e.g. answer questionnaires; interviews?)
  - Describe clearly the procedures they used to investigate the research question

- **What did they find/conclude**
  - Read through the results section but sometimes there is a lot of information that is not easy to understand so go the discussion where the authors usually highlight the most important findings of the study.

Discuss the strengths and possible limitations of the study

- Was the information presented helpful or interesting or providing new information?
- Are the findings limited because:
  - of the population used (e.g. used a mixed racial population; only used people from California)
  - of the measures or methods used? (only used questionnaires, no interviews? Bad choice of measures?)
  - They used retrospective (memory) data
- Do the researchers’ conclusions make sense based on the findings?
- How do the findings relate to other research
  - Do they further/support other findings?
  - Do they contradict other findings?
- How do the findings inform your research

Discuss how does the study relate to the topic/question you are trying to research