JOURNAL CLUB QUESTIONS

• What is the study’s objective/hypothesis/question?
• What is the rationale and relevance of the question? (i.e. why was the study done?)
• What is the relevance of this topic/question to Public Health? (i.e. is it urgent or essential reading for a Public Health practitioner?)
• What methodological approach (design, analysis, etc.) has been used? (i.e. what was done?)
• What were the results of the study? (i.e. what did the investigators find?)
• What were the strengths & weaknesses of this study? Are the results valid? (i.e. its study design, appropriateness of the method(s), relevant study group, sufficient sample size, appropriate study conduct, data gathering, subject follow-up, influences of bias, method of analysis, discussion, currentness and comprehensiveness of the listed references, etc.)
• Do the conclusions follow logically from the design and results?
• How do the results relate to current practice and how might they influence future practice? (i.e. what does the answer mean anyway? So what and who cares?)