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Getting started in... Reviewing the Literature

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Clinical Research Fellow - Newcastle University

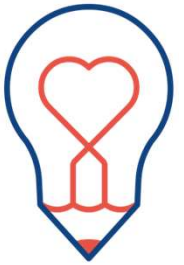
18th November 2025

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Session Overview



DESIGN



CONDUCT

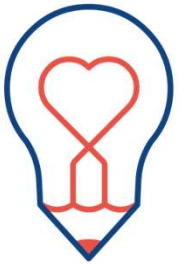


ANALYSIS

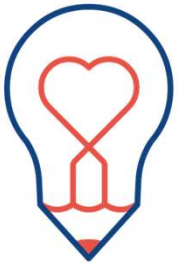


WRITING

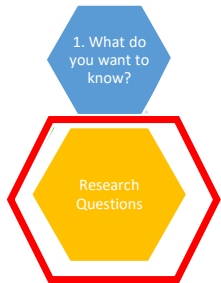
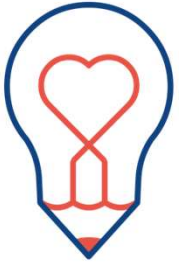
Before we start...



Design – Summary



Design – What do you want to know?

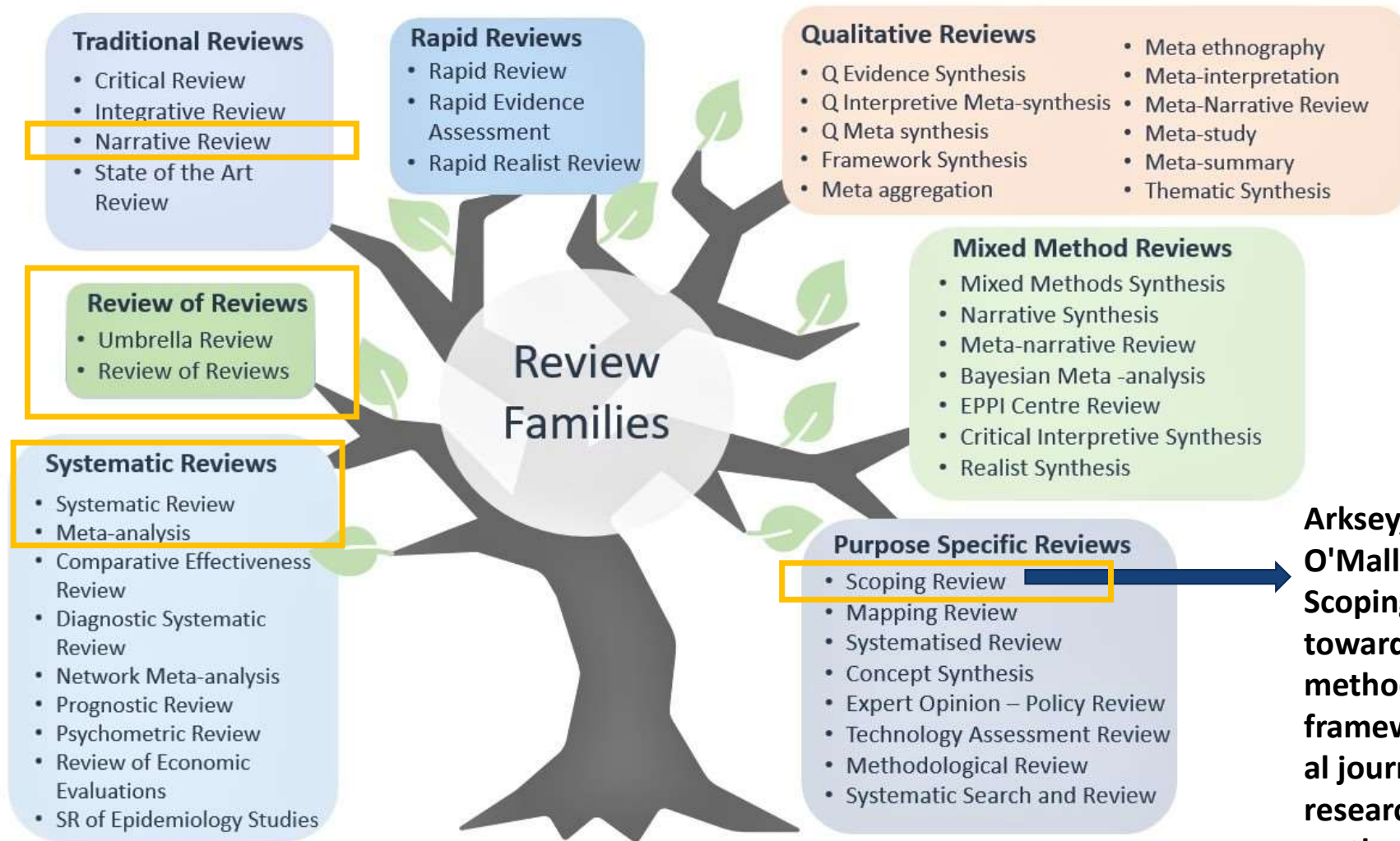


What is known?

Where are the gaps in the literature?

Why do you want to know?

Design – Types of Search



Arksey, H. and O'Malley, L., 2005. Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework. *International journal of social research methodology*, 8(1), pp.19-32.

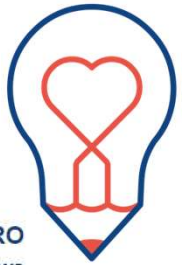
Sutton, A., Clowes, M., Preston, L., & Booth, A. (2019). Meeting the review family: exploring review types and associated information retrieval requirements. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 36(3), 202-222

Design – Registering your protocol



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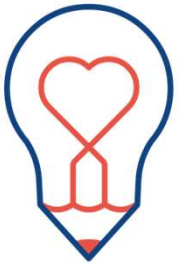
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Design – Search Terms



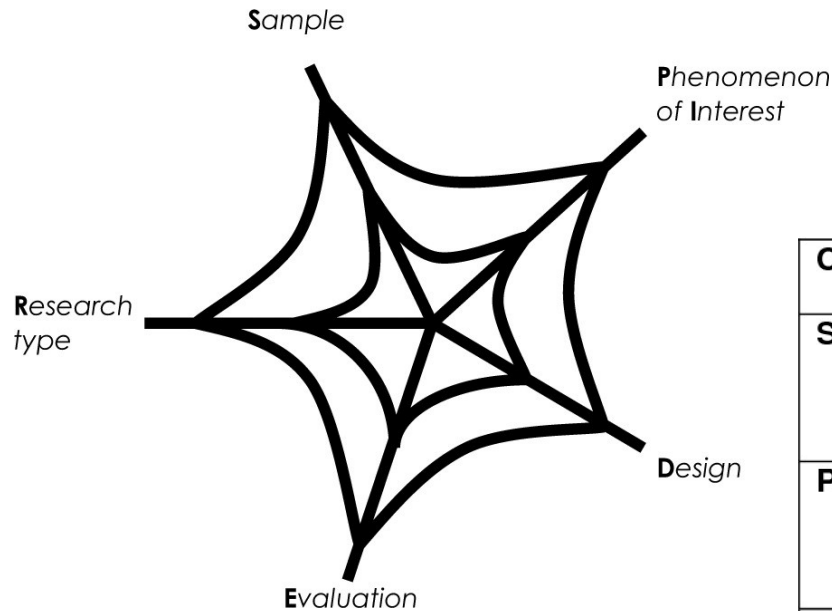
Define the question

Breakdown into concepts and synonyms

Consider how this will work in each database

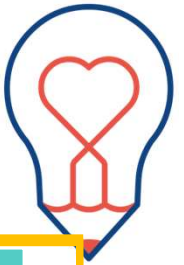
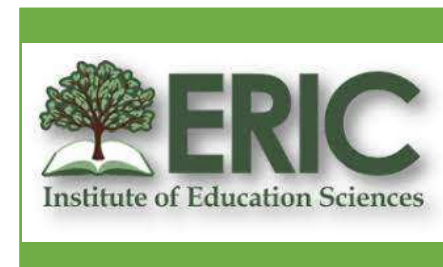
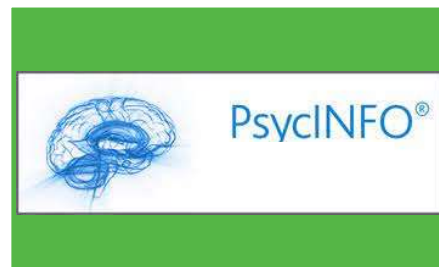
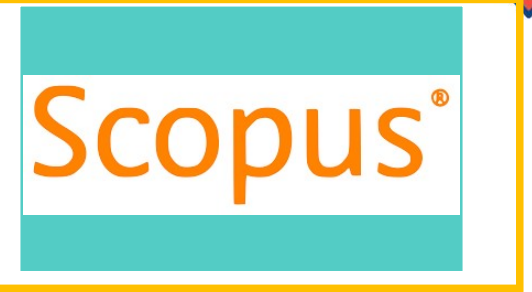
Commonplace to publish strategy as a supplements now

Side Note: From PICO to SPIDER



Categories	Keywords
Sample Terms	women* OR woman* OR parturient* OR post parturient* OR postnatal OR mother* OR parent* OR childbearing OR primigravida* OR multigravida* OR postpartum OR maternity OR postnatal
Phenomena of Interest	(pain OR agony OR distress) AND (coping OR cop* OR managing OR manage* OR handl*) AND (childbearing OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR labour* OR labor* OR confinement OR deliver* OR birth OR giving birth
Design	grounded theory OR narrative OR thematic analysis OR phenomenolog* OR ethnograph* OR case stud* OR participant observation* OR focus group* OR interview OR lived experience* OR life experience* OR story OR stories OR perception* OR belief* OR discourse analysis
Evaluation	experienc* OR encounter* OR understand* OR feel* OR belief* OR believes OR perception* OR perceive* OR account* OR attitude*
Research type	Qualitative

Design – Databases



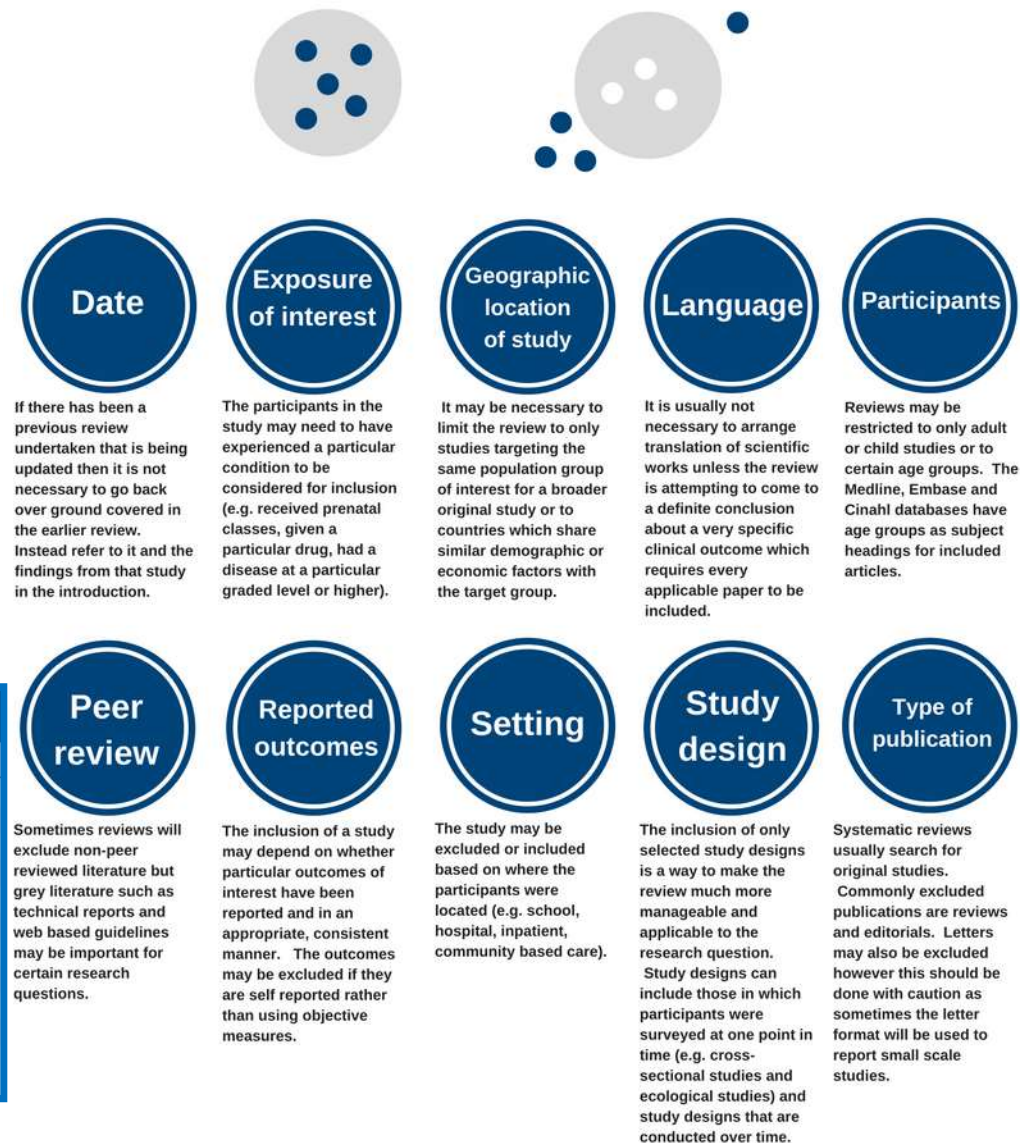
Design – Inclusion and Exclusion



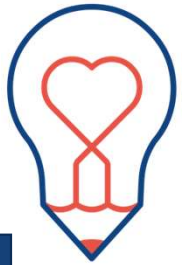
Example Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Human	Cadaver and anatomical study
English and French language papers	Experimental
At least the description of a case of a thinned anterolateral thigh flap	Split-flaps and through-and-through defects reconstructions
Review papers or case series or case report	Composite flaps (fasciocutaneous/musculocutaneous flaps, chimeric flaps)
Large/small anterolateral thigh flaps series, cases report, or letters to the editor	Harvesting techniques
Adipofascial anterolateral thigh flap	Donor site complications
Head and neck, trunk, or limb reconstructions	Donor site morbidity assessment
Pedicle and free flaps	Free flap monitoring techniques
	Microvascular anastomosis harvesting
	Adipocutaneous anterolateral thigh flap
	Perforator investigation methods (Doppler, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging)

Common Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

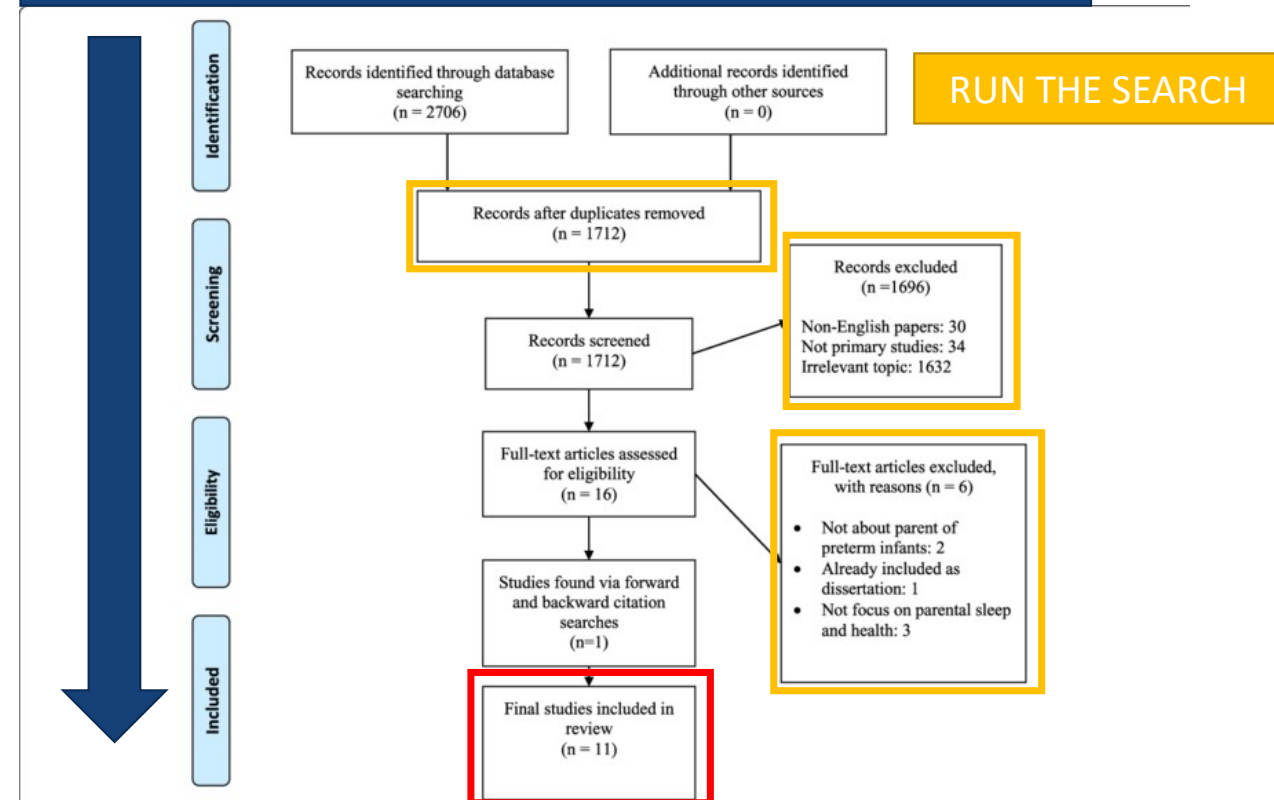


Conduct



Collaboration
Double Screening

Example PRISMA diagram for a scoping review





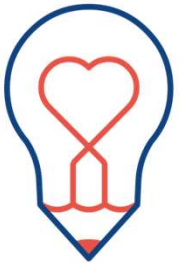
Extraction and Analysis

- A data extraction tool is designed and used to review every paper to pull out the data you need
- This process can be iterative, but you would then need to revisit the whole data set

Example Data Extraction Tool

Study	Site	Design	Participants	Data collection	Exposure	Event	Definition of "rural"
DeCastro et al ²⁸	USA	Cross-section	Dental graduates	Self-administered questionnaire	Alumni of the Community-Oriented Dental Education (CODE) program	Reporting interest in helping communities after graduation	Underserved area where the distance from schools is about 145–195 km
Johnson and Blinkhorn ²⁹	Australia	Cross-section	Dental students	Self-administered questionnaire	Fourth-year students who participated in a rural placement program	Intention to work in rural location after they graduate	Not clearly described
McFarland et al ³²	USA	Retrospective cohort	Dental graduates	Tracking alumni records	Rural background (based on domicile where respondents were brought up or the location of their high school)	Currently working in a rural county after graduation	Counties with populations of 50,000 or fewer
McMillan and Barrie ³³	South Africa	Cross-section	Dental students	Self-administered questionnaire	Rural background (based on domicile where respondents were brought up)	Intention to work in rural areas	Administrative areas smaller than a town or city
Johnson and Blinkhorn ^{30,b}	Australia	Cross-section	Dental graduates	Tracking records of dental graduates from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Graduates who participated in rural placement program	Currently working in rural areas	Area with a population of fewer than 100,000
Thammatacharee et al ³⁴	Thailand	Cross-section	Dental graduates	Self-administered questionnaire	Rural background, defined as having been brought up in a rural area during the first 15 years of life	Intention to practice in a community (district) hospital given, not contract-bound	Nonprovincial capital district of any province outside Greater Bangkok
McQuistan et al ³¹	USA	Cross-section	Dental graduates	Self-administered questionnaire	Participating in Community-Based Dental Education (CBDE) program (a 10-week rotation in community health centers or nursing homes)	Current involvement in charitable dental service in community	Not clearly described

Writing the Report



Structured, coherent argument

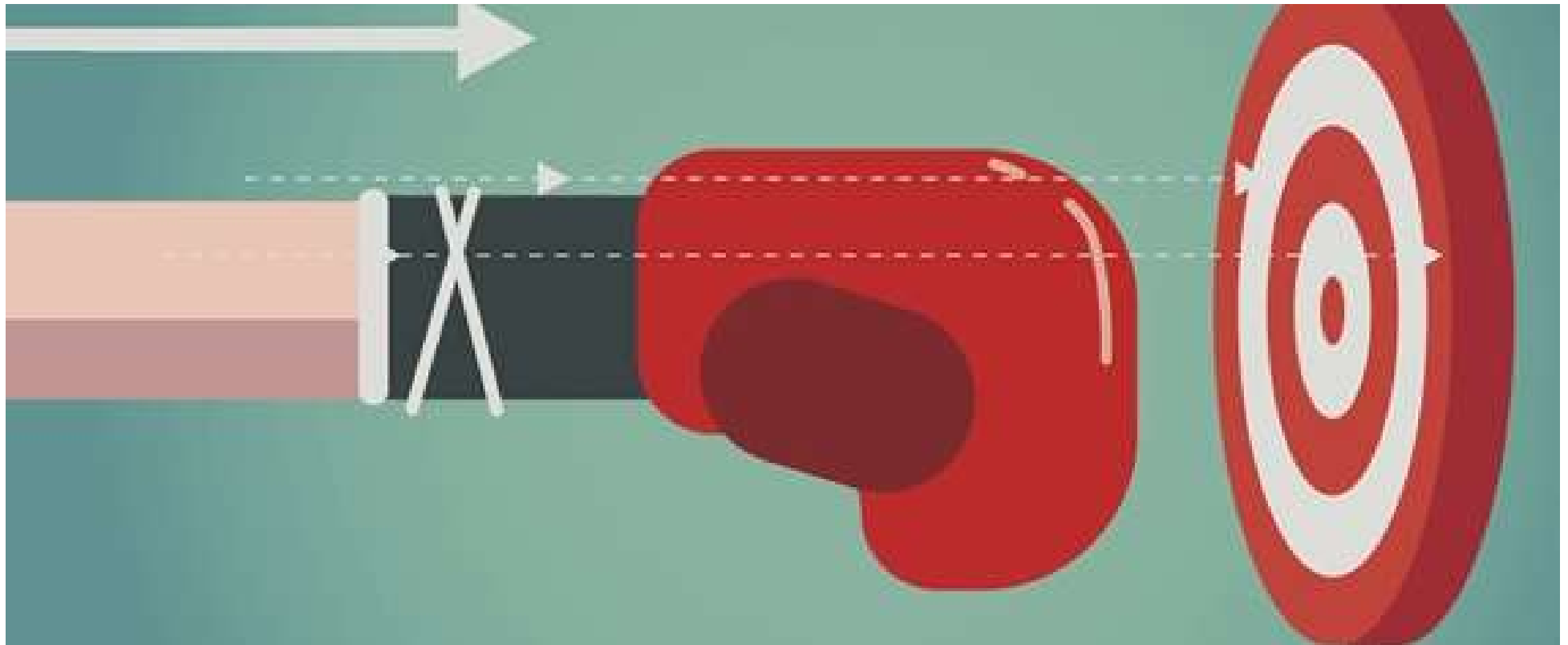
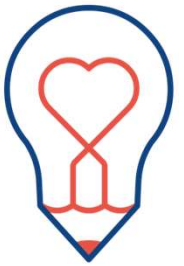


Synthesises a useful and useable contribution to the literature



Clearly identifies gaps in the literature and areas for further work

And then the after...

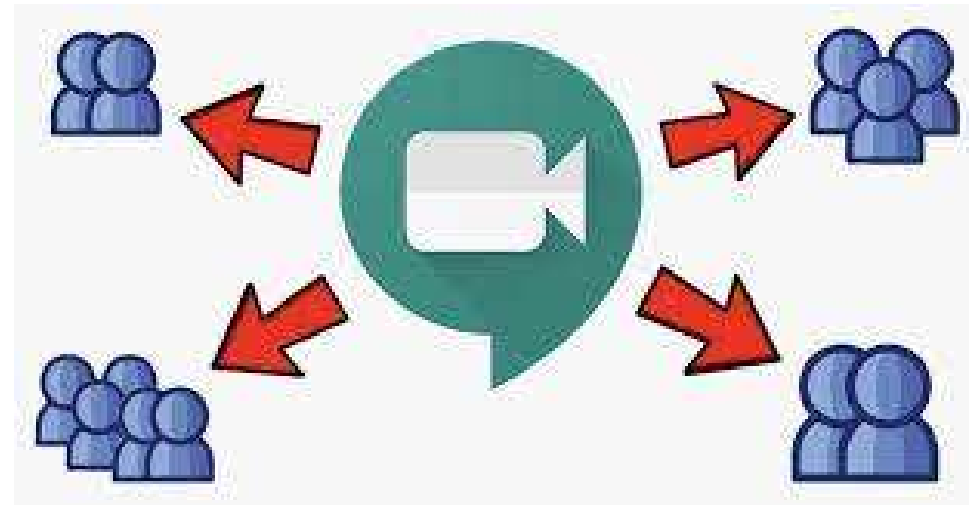


Breakout 1

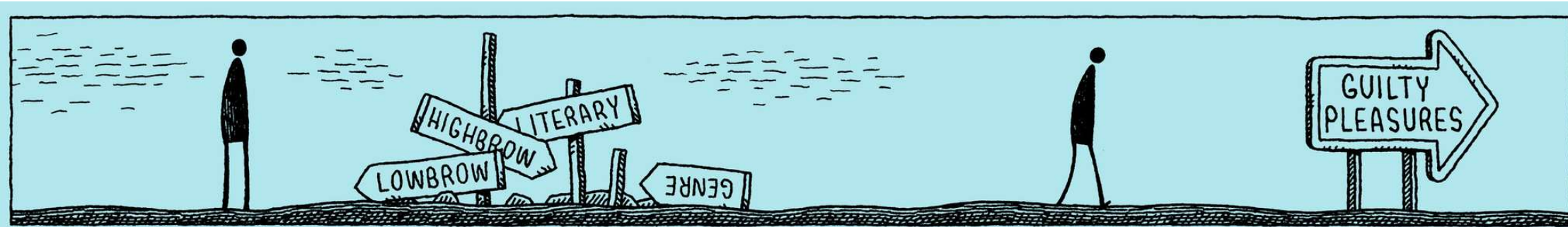
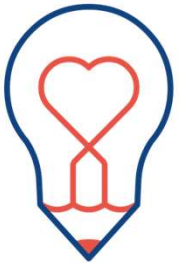
Activity 1: Introduce yourself and tell the group your guilty literary pleasure?

Activity 2: Consider what search terms you might use to investigate the question below:

- A. **How is self-monitoring incorporated in graduate medical education?**
- B. **Or if someone in the group is happy to share an example feel free to discuss / explore any difficulties they may have had / be having**



Breakout 1 – Recap

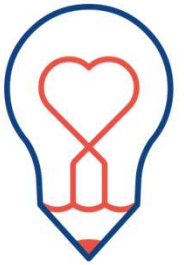


Adobe Acrobat
Document

Johnson, W.R., Durning, S.J., Allard, R.J., Barelski, A.M. and Artino Jr, A.R., 2023. A scoping review of self-monitoring in graduate medical education. *Medical Education*.



Microsoft Word
Document



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for listening

Any question...

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