

**Department of Applied Medicine and Rehabilitation**  
**Indiana State University**  
Critically Appraised Topic Guidelines

List of the Front Matter (*each section begins on a new page, 2" from top of page, equal to 2 black double spaced lines*)

- a. Title page (*not numbered, centered vertically*)
- b. Approval Sheet (*not numbered*)
- c. Abstract (*numbered as "iii", formatted according to Authorship guidelines*)
- d. Acknowledgements (*numbered*)
- e. Table of Contents (*numbered, not listed in TOC*)
- f. List of Tables (*numbered*)
- g. List of Figures (*numbered*)

**Manuscript**

*This section should be formatted according to Authorship submission guidelines – typical headings are listed below. Students are encouraged to provide a link or copy of authorship guidelines in the appendices.*

- a. Abstract (*formatted according to intended journal guidelines – typical headings are listed below*)
  - i. Clinical Scenario
  - ii. Focused Clinical Question
  - iii. Summary of Key Findings
  - iv. Clinical Bottom Line
  - v. Strength of Recommendation
- b. Search Characteristics
  - i. Search Strategy
  - ii. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria
  - iii. Results of Search
- c. Best Evidence (usually 3-5 of the related articles)
  - i. Summary of Best Evidence (See below for Evidence Evaluation Scales)
    1. Table 1 – Summary of Study Designs of Articles Retrieved (referenced within text, but placed at the conclusion of the manuscript; place on own page)
    2. Table 2 – Characteristics of Included Studies (referenced within text, but placed at the conclusion of the manuscript; place on own page). Each of the studies chosen for inclusion in the CAT should be critically appraised in a comparative table. The table might include the following headings:
      - Study Design
      - Participants
      - Intervention Investigated
      - Control Group Characteristics
      - Experimental Group Characteristics
      - Outcome Measures (Primary and Secondary)
      - Main Findings
      - Level of Evidence
      - Conclusion
- d. Implications for Practice, Education, and Future Research
- e. References (manuscript only)

**Chapter II: Review of Literature**

- a. Introductory statement

- b. Search strategy
- c. Review of relevant literature
- d. Conclusion

Comprehensive Bibliography- if different than manuscript references (Endnote Required)

#### Appendix A: Expanded Tables

- a. Summary of Study Designs for all Articles Retrieved (including those excluded)
- b. Characteristics of Studies

#### Appendix B: Recommendations

- a. Implications for Practice, Education, and Future Research (expanded)

#### Style Requirements

- a. Margins: (inch)
  - i. Right = 1.0
  - ii. Left = 1.5
  - iii. Top = 1.4
  - iv. Bottom = 1.0
  - v. Header = 1.0
  - vi. Footer = 0.5
- b. Page numbering: Include as indicated below. The Front Matter uses lowercase Roman numerals, while the rest of the document uses Arabic numerals). Placement should be in the upper right corner of the page.
- c. Font Style & Size: Times New Roman, size 12 font
- d. Default Style: Author's Guide for publishing outlet

#### Evidence Evaluation Scales

Several evidence evaluation scales are available in the literature. The following are suggested; however, the scale should be appropriate to the clinical question, possible publication outlet and should be finalized by the chair.

1. [Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine 2011 Levels of Evidence](#)
2. [SORT: Strength-of-Evidence Taxonomy](#)
3. [Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation \(GRADE\)](#)
4. [American Family Physician Levels of Evidence](#)

Example of published CAT report: [Valovich McLeod, TC. The effectiveness of balance training programs on reducing the incidence of ankle sprains in adolescent athletes. \*J Sport Rehabil.\* 2008;17:316-323.](#)