Evaluating resources for quality can be tricky. Luckily, we have a research guide that can help you ask critical questions and we'll review those questions in this video. Our guide can be found at libguides.health.unm.edu/evaluating. Often people want to be able to say "if a resource is peer reviewed then it's quality" but unfortunately it isn't that simple. Peer review is the process of other scholars reading the article before publication and saying it ticks all the boxes of being well researched. Using peer reviewed articles helps you ground your work in the evidence of the field. However, there are criticisms of peer review because research has shown it can favor a dominant narrative and be used as a form of gatekeeping with a lack of objectivity. Also, incorrect and damaging research can still get through. For instance, The Lancet published a poorly researched article on vaccines leading to autism that took 12 years to retract. That's why reviewing and asking crucial questions of an article can help you discern if it's quality. You can use our guide to help you think about these elements when making decisions on using an article. For instance, starting by thinking about who the author is and what expertise they have, who the article was written for (other medical professionals?), what type of journal the piece was published in (was it medical, nursing, public health? Is the journal in good standing?), and why the piece was written can help lead you to understanding the importance and impact of the article. Other questions to ask are, does the methodology seem sound and appropriate? What type of article is it, original clinical study or systematic review? These will have different methods and be different levels of evidence. You can find more information on how to review these concepts, evaluate specific resource types (including studies and websites), information on types of articles, and definitions of terms on our guide. Thinking critically is what led to the previously mentioned Lancet article being retracted. People reading it noticed the research was funded by lawyers representing parents suing vaccine manufacturers and participants weren’t randomly selected. This was just a quick overview on evaluating sources. Be sure to use our guide and reach out to us with any questions you have at any time.