



What's the Focus?



Occupational therapists can use journal clubs to apply research findings to practice or explore research methods. Use the mission and values of your community to determine what the focus of your journal club is and that participants' goals are met. Here are some ideas on areas to focus on.

Topic-Focused

- Increase knowledge of evidence on specific practice topics (i.e., lymphedema, feeding and swallowing)
- Can include sessions organized on sub-topics (i.e., related diagnoses, populations, assessment tools, or interventions) to ensure a broad range of information is covered
- Participants discuss how the topics relate to their practice

Problem-Focused

- Focus on answering specific questions
- Effective for group members who work in similar organizations and/or provide services to similar clients
- Practice questions are developed based on the needs of the population or related to a specific practice setting, and will guide article selection
- Organizations may choose to use a problem-focused journal club if starting a new initiative

Literature-Focused

- Focus on keeping up with current literature trends
- Focus on reading articles from targeted journals
 - Can assign different journals to various members
 - Each member reads relevant articles in the latest issue of their journal
 - Participants prepare summaries of relevant articles to share with other group participants

Methodology-Focused

- Focus on understanding different types of research methods.
- Ideal for groups in academic settings or individuals who are interested in learning more about critical appraisal
- Assign a moderator who is familiar with different types of research methods and critical appraisal

- The moderator selects an article and critical appraisal format
- Members read the article and develop their own critical appraisal
- Moderator provides feedback

If you are interested in hosting a journal club for NOTA, please submit a Short Course Presenter Application (located under the Continuing Ed heading on NOTA's website).

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2021). *Identifying a journal club focus*. <https://www.aota.org/practice/practice-essentials/evidencebased-practiceknowledge-translation/-/media/c8f1e8b7746f42cc9fde6d02e786a6f0.ashx>