

MODULE

9

Study Review Guide

whatworks.ed.gov

MODULE

9 Study Review Guide

This module describes how to use the [study review guide](#) (SRG), a web-based tool used to assess a study against WWC design standards.

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ❖ Understand the functions and major components of the SRG.
- ❖ Use the SRG to apply [WWC Group Design Standards](#) to correctly determine a study rating.
- ❖ Appropriately document information about a study's design, findings, and context in the SRG.

SRG Users Must Be Familiar with WWC Group Design Standards

Before viewing this module, you should:

- ❖ Complete WWC Group Design Standards Training Modules 1 through 8.
- ❖ Understand how to use the WWC design standards to assign a study rating.
- ❖ Be familiar with the procedures the WWC uses to report on and summarize findings from systematic reviews.

Updates to the SRG

Throughout this module, screenshots are used from the version 4.0 SRG. Enhancements to the version 4.1 SRG are in progress. However, these enhancements will not significantly alter the SRG user experience for certified reviewers.

Definition and Purpose of the SRG

- ❖ The SRG is a user-friendly, web-based tool for reviewing studies against the WWC Group Design Standards.
- ❖ It provides a uniform way to apply the WWC design standards, supporting data quality and consistency across study reviews.

The Public and WWC Contract Versions of the SRG

- ❖ Anyone can access the public version on the WWC website.
- ❖ The WWC contract version is available only to **certified reviewers** who meet all security requirements to conduct reviews under a WWC contract.
- ❖ Both versions will result in the same rating for a study, but there are some differences:
 - ❖ Different process to access the SRG.
 - ❖ Ratings and information from the contract SRG flow to the WWC website.
 - ❖ The contract SRG includes information pre-populated from the WWC database that users of the public SRG must enter manually.
 - ❖ Entering contextual and narrative information about a study is optional in the public SRG.

How Information Flows to the WWC Website



WWC REVIEW OF THIS STUDY



Export



Print

Alternative routes to teaching: The impacts of Teach for America on student achievement and other outcomes.

Glazerman, S., Mayer, D., & Decker, P. (2006). Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 25(1), 75–96. Retrieved from: <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ759352>

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL EXAMINING 1,715 STUDENTS, GRADES 1-5

Review Details

Findings

Sample Characteristics

Study Details

Additional Sources

Reviewed: August 2016

For:

Teach for America (TFA) Intervention Report - Teacher Training, Evaluation, and Compensation

Using:

Teacher Training, Evaluation, and Compensation Review Protocol 3.2

Review Standards 3.0

Rating:

Meets WWC standards without reservations



MEETS WWC STANDARDS WITHOUT RESERVATIONS



AT LEAST ONE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE FINDING

Key Elements of a Study Review

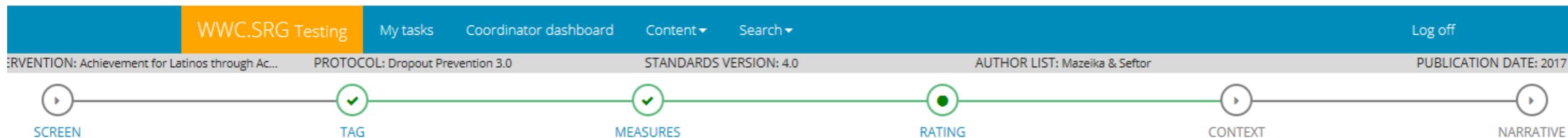
Each review assesses a study of an intervention, following a review protocol, for a specified purpose.

- ❖ For contract reviews, the review coordinator will identify these key elements when assigning a review task.
- ❖ Users of the public SRG will need to enter this information.

Stages of a Review

1. Screen
 2. Tag
 3. Measures
 4. Rating
 5. Context
 6. Narrative
- Only contract reviewers will complete the Tag stage.**
- Reviewers of studies that meet WWC design standards will complete two additional stages. These stages are optional in the public SRG.**

The SRG displays the review stages at the top of the review screen.



Tips for Conducting a Review

- ❖ Before starting a review, carefully read the review protocol you will use for the review.
- ❖ Also scan the study. This will allow you to have a sense of the study before you start the review.
- ❖ Then, read the SRG instructions for guidance on using the SRG to complete reviews.

For contract reviewers:

- ❖ Use complete sentences when writing review notes and completing the study narrative fields.
- ❖ Check for spelling or grammatical errors.
- ❖ Clearly document in the review notes any assumptions you made in the course of the review.
- ❖ Clearly document in the review notes any questions you have for the authors.
- ❖ Include study page references in review notes and the study narrative.

Accessing and Logging in to the SRG

Contract reviewer version:

- ❖ Meet Institute of Education Sciences security requirements.
- ❖ Access the SRG using this link: [\[add web link\]](#)
- ❖ Or, you can access the SRG using the link in the task assignment email you receive.
- ❖ If you are logging in for the first time, follow the instructions you received by email to get started.
- ❖ Log in using your username and the password you created.
- ❖ To start a review, click the Review button next to the study on the My Tasks page.

Public version:

- ❖ Access the SRG on the WWC website: [\[add web link\]](#)
- ❖ Select “Start a new review,” or select “Enter PIN” to continue an existing review.

Tips on SRG Notes

- ❖ Use the general study notes to document any assumptions you made during the review, questions you have for the study author, or additional information from the study, such as where you found information to answer a question.
- ❖ Use the measure-specific notes to document any assumptions, concerns, or questions you have about a specific measure.
- ❖ Contract reviewers: be sure to use complete sentences and include page references.

How Is an Outcome Measure Defined in the SRG?

An **outcome measure** is a unique combination of the following:

- ❖ An instrument or method to assess the outcome
- ❖ The timing of follow-up (such as a four-year or five-year follow-up)
- ❖ The sample measured (such as the full sample or a **subsample**)

Completing the SRG Context Page

- ❖ Enter information about the study's main analytic sample, or the closest approximation.
- ❖ Complete as much information as you can based on what the study reports.
- ❖ Information from the Context page in the contract SRG flows to the WWC website:
 - ❖ Feeds the Sample Characteristics tab on study pages.
 - ❖ Determines how interventions are classified for the Find Research with Students Like Yours search feature in Find What Works.

Completing the SRG Narrative Page

Narrative page box	Information to include
Describe the setting of the study	Study location, types of classrooms or schools involved, courses
Describe the study design	Recruitment, consent, and other details on how the intervention and comparison groups were formed
Describe the sample sizes	Randomized and analytic sample sizes; the number of schools, classrooms, or teachers in the sample
Describe the sample characteristics	Race/ethnicity, gender, special education status, and other characteristics identified in the review protocol

Completing the SRG Narrative Page (cont'd)

Narrative page box	Information to include
Describe the intervention condition as implemented	Intervention content and frequency
Describe the comparison condition as implemented	Comparison condition content and frequency, or “The WWC assumes the comparison condition is business-as-usual,” if study does not describe it
Describe any support for implementation	Professional development or training, feedback, and materials provided to participants to implement the intervention

- ❖ Summarize this information in your own words and do not use quotations from the study.

MODULE

9

Study Review Guide Conclusion

MODULE

9 Study Review Guide

- ❖ You can access all the resources mentioned in this module through the WWC website, **whatworks.ed.gov**.
- ❖ The full slide deck for this module is available on the WWC website.
- ❖ To receive a certificate of completion for viewing these training modules, you must view the videos on the WWC website.

Thank you!