

## Getting to the Heart and Mind of the Matter

### Science Media Literacy

#### Additional Exercise:

Here is a recent meta-analysis ([Jefferson et al., 2023](#)) about facemasks and their ability to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In this exercise, use the infographic and your science media literacy skills to critique its findings. A [summary of their findings can also be found here](#).

What are three or four observations you can make about this study.

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After perusing the meta-analysis, check out these two articles written as a response to it:

[The new scientific review on masks and COVID isn't what you think \(Piper, 2023\)](#).

[A new turn in the fight over masks \(Tayag, 2023\)](#).

What are some of the limitations of the meta-analysis?

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What do we learn about science from the meta-analysis?

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Why is critically thinking about the nuances of science important when reading about it in media sources?

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How does this meta-analysis contrast with this page from the [CDC \(2021\)](#)? What are some of the limitations from the CDC's findings as a government health source?

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