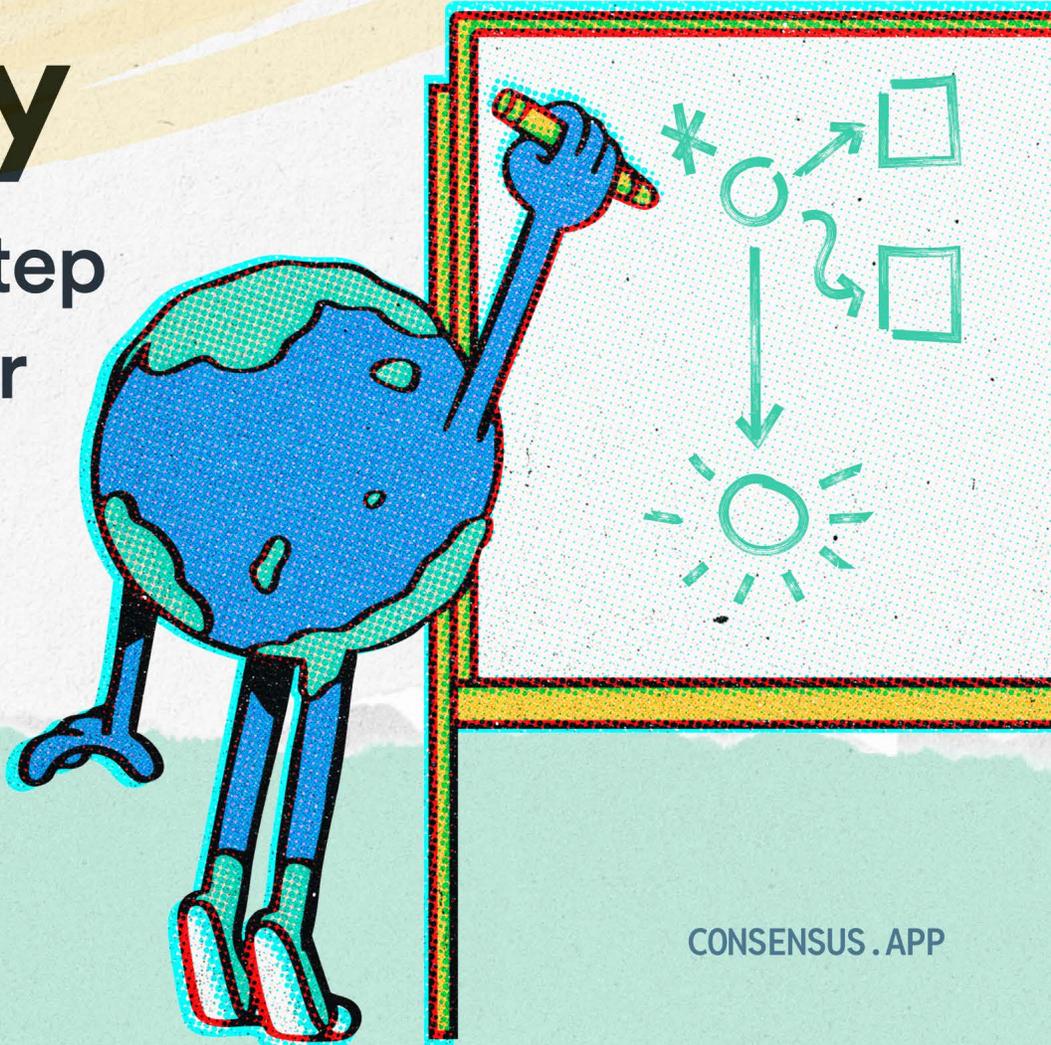




A GUIDE TO

Using Consensus for Academic Faculty

A Step-by-Step
Workflow for
New Users



What is Consensus?

Consensus is an AI-powered search engine that instantly finds, analyzes, and summarizes peer-reviewed research. It helps faculty base their teaching, curriculum design, and even grant proposals in current peer-reviewed evidence without days of manual searching.

At a glance, Consensus can help you with:

- **Instant summaries** of key findings
- **Consensus Meter** showing overall agreement across studies
- **Smart filters & deep search** to focus on your field
- **Direct links to full papers** for further reading and citation
- **One-click exports and citations** for syllabi, presentations, or proposals



Understanding the Workflow

1 Decide What You Want

Before typing anything, be clear about your goal.

Do you need:

- Outline on a topic (e.g., for a new course module)
- Table of key studies or evidence
- Answer to a specific research question (yes/no or measurable outcome)
- In-depth literature overview for a grant or proposal

This helps you frame the search and pick the right path.



Tip

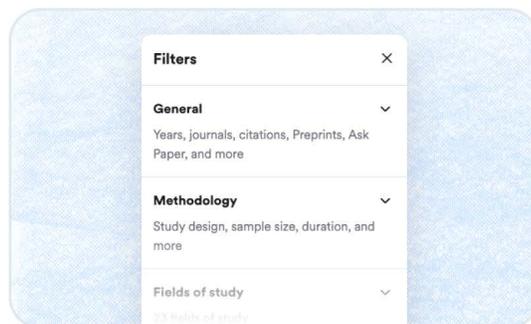
A well-framed question, especially a yes/no or measurable outcome, produces clearer summaries and a stronger Consensus Meter result.



2 Apply Filters

Before choosing a search type, narrow your scope:

- **General:** Discipline (e.g. years, journals, citations, pre-prints, open-access & more..)
- **Methodology:** (e.g. Study design, sample size, duration, and more)
- **Field of Study:** (Choose among 23 fields of study e.g. education, medicine etc.)
- **Countries:** (Choose among 236 countries e.g. USA, Germany etc.)



Tip

Add journal rank and no. of citations to improve the quality of results

This saves time and ensures relevant results no matter which search path you take.



3 Choose Your Search Path

Ask yourself:

Do I mainly need a wide net of studies, or a detailed synthesis right away?

If you need:

Research objective	Results you receive	Search type
Fast	Short summary with citation links of 10 papers	 Quick Search
Broad coverage	Detailed summary + Consensus Meter + Citation Links of top 20 peer-reviewed articles	 Pro Search
Comprehensive Literature review	Pro Analysis + Claims & Evidence table, Research Gaps heat map, and other analytic visualizations + Citation links of top 50 papers	 Deep Search

4 Type In Your Research Question

Now enter your full question in the search bar.

“Does the use of AI-powered tutoring tools improve student performance in first-year mathematics?”

A clear, specific, yes/no-style question works best as it lets Consensus deliver stronger summaries and shows the Consensus Meter reading.

Does the use of AI-powered tutoring tools improve student performance in first-year mathematics?

All ▾ Pro ▾

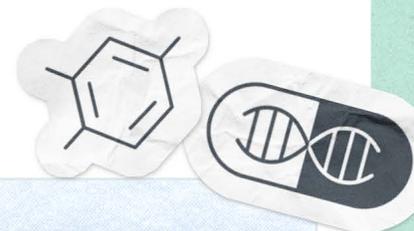
Filter



View & Use the Results

Once you run the search, Consensus displays results slightly differently depending on the mode you chose—**Quick**, **Pro**, or **Deep**.

Here's what to expect and how each can help:



Quick Search

What you see:

- Short, plain-language summary of findings.
- Citation links to about **10 key papers**.

How to use it:

- Perfect for a rapid check or a quick classroom reference.
- Grab a citation instantly for slides or a syllabus note.

Does daily vitamin D supplementation boost the immune system?

 Quick · 1 step · 9 sources

Pro Search

What you see:

- **Detailed summary** of the evidence base.
- **Consensus Meter** showing the level of agreement or disagreement across studies (when asking a yes/no question).
- Direct links and citations for roughly **20 top peer-reviewed articles**.

How to use it:

- Ideal when you need a stronger foundation for a course update, policy memo, or grant background section.
- The Consensus Meter quickly tells you if the evidence tilts Yes, No, or is mixed.

Does daily vitamin D supplementation boost the immune system?

 Pro · 1 step · 18 sources





Deep Search



What you see:

- **Detailed Literature Review** complete with Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion & Conclusion
- **Claims & Evidence Table** for side-by-side comparison of studies
- **Research Gaps Matrix & Open Research Questions** to spot under-researched areas
- Citation links to about **50 peer-reviewed papers**.

How to use it:

- Best for a full literature review or when you're preparing a major proposal or research article.
- Quickly identify key studies, evidence strength, and future research opportunities.

Does daily vitamin D supplementation boost the immune system?

Deep · 17 steps · 50 sources



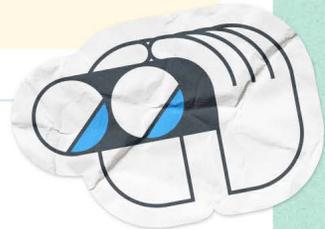
Why this matters

Understanding how to read the results (Quick, Pro, or Deep) lets you gauge the strength of the evidence at a glance and decide where to dig deeper.



Tip

Use **Ask the Paper** to summarize or clarify complex sections of a single study without reading the entire PDF.



Actions Available in All Modes

Regardless of which search you pick, you can:

Action	Feature
Read full papers	Direct links (with LibKey integration if your library subscribes)
Talk to the Paper	Use the Ask this Paper feature to chat with any study: get a summary, clarify concepts, or pull specific details without reading the full text.
Converse with the literature	Threads let you keep asking follow-up questions, refine your search, and build on what you discover. It's an ongoing dialogue with science, not just a single search.
Cite instantly	One-click Copy Citation in APA, MLA, Chicago, Harvard, BibTeX, or AMA/Numeric, with the option to download a citation file for reference managers
Save & organize papers	Add studies to a personal list and export that list in CSV or RIS for use in EndNote, Zotero, or other managers.
Export or share results	Generate a PDF report of the entire output (summaries, visuals, citations) or share the whole thread as a link with colleagues or students.



QUICK-START CHECKLIST

Use this to get started with Consensus in minutes:

- Create an account**
consensus.app (free sign-up)
- Clarify your goal**
outline, specific question, or full literature review
- Apply filters**
set discipline, study type, year range, and country if needed
- Pick a search mode**
Quick (fast answer), Pro (summary + Consensus Meter), or Deep (full analysis).
- Type a clear question**
e.g., "Does flipped-classroom teaching improve STEM exam scores?"
- Review results**
read summaries, check the Consensus Meter, explore the Claims & Evidence table, & Research Matrix
- Interact with sources**
read full PDFs or click "Ask the Paper" to chat with individual studies for summaries or clarifications
- Save or share**
add papers to a list and export in CSV/RIS, or share the whole thread as a link
- Cite & export**
copy citations in your required citation style or download a full PDF report.

About Consensus

Consensus is an AI-powered search engine for scientific research papers. Our mission is to make the world's best knowledge more accessible for all.

For more information visit
consensus.app

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