What is uncertain? A note for each Maybe

Checked on 29 Sep 2026 · Version 1.0 · CC BY 4.0

A Maybe records that the title and abstract do not settle the question. Three short lines say why, for a colleague, a supervisor, or you at full text.

The note

1. Criterion [number]: [what is unclear].
2. The abstract [says / does not say] [what].
3. Settled by: [what in the full text would decide it].

For example: Criterion 2: the setting is unclear. The abstract says “community services” but not the country. Settled by: the methods section.

Your Maybes

Record	Criterion	What is unclear	What would settle it	At full text

Keep notes about the paper, in words you would be content for an examiner to read.

The full guide: evensift.com/guides/title-abstract-screening/

© 2026 Evensift. CC BY 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/): copy and adapt it with credit and a link. The latest version is at evensift.com/guides/title-abstract-screening/. Corrections: hello@evensift.com.