Reading on the Internet requires learners to integrate information from multiple sources of differing quality, often presenting conflicting information. This theoretical poster presents an overview of two important factors and processes involved in this process, namely epistemic beliefs and prior attitudes. A recent review has already described the importance of epistemic beliefs on multiple-text comprehension (Bråten, Britt, Strømsø, & Rouet, 2011). However, attitudes influence information processing as well, for instance when reading on controversial issues (Kobayashi, 2010).

### Remaining questions
- How do prior attitudes and epistemic beliefs interact?
- Can (strong) prior attitudes overrule the beneficial effects of sophisticated epistemic beliefs, or are such sophisticated beliefs immune to biases of strong prior attitudes?

### Hypotheses
- Absolutists’ difficulties with integration may cause them to emphasize own opinion instead
- Multiplists see self as source of knowledge, so they are likely to employ their prior attitudes
- Evaluativists should operate independently of their prior attitudes (cf. accuracy motivation)

### References

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**Prior attitudes**
- Defense motivation
- Accuracy Motivation
- Confirmation bias
- Disconfirmation bias

**Epistemic beliefs**
- Absolutism
- Multiplism
- Evaluativism

**Integration of information from multiple sources**
- Bråten, Britt, Strømsø, & Rouet (2011)
  - Sophisticated epistemic beliefs foster integration

**Van Strien, Brand-Gruwel, & Boshuizen (in preparation)**
  - Strong prior attitudes can bias integration of conflicting information