

Alternative to Research Participation: Article Summary
1/13/2009

NOTE: EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO WRITE ARTICLE SUMMARIES TO SATISFY THE RESEARCH REQUIREMENT, YOU STILL NEED TO REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT ON THE EXPERIMENT-MANAGEMENT WEBSITE!

The option for earning research participation credit by writing summaries of research articles is designed primarily for students who are unable to, or do not wish to, participate in psychological studies. **EACH 2-to-3-PAGE typed summary will be your own work and will adhere to the guidelines stated herein. Each summary will earn you 1 participation credit toward completion of the research requirement; EACH 1-page summary will earn you a ½ credit. You must adhere to the following guidelines carefully and you must take them seriously.** Plagiarism and poor quality work will not be accepted. If you are unfamiliar with the definition and examples of plagiarism, or the guidelines for avoiding plagiarism, please review this section of CMC's statement on [Academic Integrity](#).

If you decide to earn credit by writing a research summary instead of gaining first-hand experience with experimentation, you must follow these guidelines.

RESEARCH ARTICLE GUIDELINES:

A. Choosing an article to read:

1. The **purpose** of this alternative assignment is to demonstrate that you have read and have understood the methodology used in the research article you read and to expose you to various experimental methods of psychological research above and beyond those that you read about in your textbook. As such, you will choose a recent article (within the last five years) that is published in a reputable psychology journal (e.g., *Psychological Science*, *Memory and Cognition*, *Developmental Psychology*, *The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and others). We strongly suggest that you enter search terms into the [PsycINFO](#) database on the library's website so that you search more reputable sources of psychological research. You may NOT use non-empirical Internet articles as your sources. Journals published by the American Psychological Association are generally considered the best. Download a .pdf version of the article because you will submit this with your summary.
2. The article that you read must be at least three full manuscript pages in length.

B. Writing the paper:

1. In order to receive credit, you must include all the following details with your paper. The information provided below outlines what you are expected to include in the paper.
2. The research experience gained by participating in experiments will familiarize you with the methodology used in psychological experiments. Likewise, article summaries are designed to familiarize you with the methodology used in psychological experiments. Likewise, article summaries are meant to familiarize you with the methodology used in psychological experiments. Thus, papers including your impressions or thoughts about the article will not be accepted for credit. The paper should be readable summary, but quite obviously not a polished term paper. **Your summary will also contain your name and reference information (See Page 3 below), but this page will not count toward the 2-3 pages of the typed summary.**

3. Your summary must be typed into this document beginning on Page 3. Please download this document to your computer and enter your answers into the boxes provided. You may delete the first two pages of this document when you submit your summary on your course website.
4. Any paper that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from a research article (or from another student) is not acceptable, nor is a paper for which you rearranged words in a sentence. The latter is not **paraphrasing**, but rather is **plagiarism**. **Your writing will be compared electronically to the original material and examined for copied phrases of 3 or more words and for sentence structure rearrangements.**
5. **Submit your summary electronically** by uploading it to the appropriate **Assignment Box** on the “Psych Exp” course on [Sakai](#). Make certain that you upload your summaries by 5:00 PM on the dates due. **Any summary submitted after the deadline is considered unacceptable and will NOT COUNT FOR CREDIT and you will lose credit toward 5% on your course grade.**
6. If Sakai will not allow you to upload multiple files, then please save your summary as a **.pdf file** and then insert the .pdf version of the entire research article that you read into your summary file so that you will submit one document. If using Adobe Acrobat, you can open your .pdf summary, select “Document” from the toolbar, and then select “Insert Pages” from the options. Select the research article that you read.
7. **You will receive one credit for each acceptable 2-3 page paper. If you find yourself in the position of needing just one half-credit more, you may write one 1-page paper.**

C. Evaluation of Summaries:

Your summary will be evaluated by one or more professors from the Psychology Department. Any paper with sections that are either entirely or partly copied, is copied word-for-word, or is rephrased by changing words in a sentence (or from another student’s work) is not acceptable. These are instances of plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense that involves stealing another person’s thoughts. **Your writing will be compared electronically to the original material and examined for copied phrases of 3 or more words and for sentence structure rearrangements. Copying phrases or rearranging an author’s sentence structure is considered plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense.** If your work is considered questionable, the evaluation committee will contact your instructor in order to determine if any additional steps should be taken to deal with the problem.

Please make sure that you turn your paper in as early as possible! Any unacceptable papers turned in at the last minute WILL NOT COUNT FOR CREDIT and you will not have a chance to correct them.

Alternative Assignment Questions

Please type your answers directly into the entry boxes provided below each query. These boxes will expand to accommodate the length of your response. When finished, please locate the assignment box on Sakai and upload both your paper and an electronic copy of the article you read.

YOUR NAME:

COURSE ENROLLED/PROFESSOR:

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

THE COMPLETE REFERENCE FOR THE ARTICLE YOU READ (e.g., title, author(s), source, etc): *

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the primary research questions the authors were addressing in their study?
2. What was the participant population being studied (e.g., college students, women, men, people with depression, etc.). Why was this participant population used?
3. Describe what the authors had research participants do in their study so that the authors could answer their research question(s). That is, what was the methodology used in the study.
4. Identify the results of the study and explain what they mean on the grand scale beyond the experiment itself.

On the next page are four cells in which to provide your answer to Questions, 1, 2, 3 and 4.

* Make sure to submit both your summary and the entire research article that you read.

1.
2.
3
4.