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PSYC 2120 – Writing Assignment

Research Article Review

The Writing Assignment is a mandatory assignment required to pass this course.

This assignment is designed to have you examine and review empirical research that has been conducted, and gives you the opportunity to focus in greater depth on a topic related to children's development that is of interest to you. Doing a research article review is a great exercise to better understand how research works, and how to discriminate between scientific and non-scientific results.

You should write a research article review of a paper listed in the "Suggested articles list" posted on Blackboard (Writing assignment folder).

You will find all the suggested articles in a compressed .zip file named "Suggested article PDFs" that I uploaded on Blackboard. If you have an idea that is not listed there, you may also bring it up to me for consideration in advance.

The Writing Assignment template is a structured document consisting of specific questions about the paper you choose. The "Writing assignment – Template" file with all the questions is posted on Blackboard; please make sure to use this template for your reports.

The writing assignment is due with no exceptions by December 4th, 2022 at 11.59 pm.

Steps to complete this writing assignment

- 1. Look through the "Suggested articles list" posted on Blackboard and **choose a paper** that you are interested in reading and writing about.
- 2. **Read** carefully the paper!
- 3. **Complete** the Writing Assignment template posted on Blackboard. The template includes the following sections:

Introduction

Brief review of the paper you choose (why you choose the paper, why you are interested in the topic covered in the paper, and so on.)

Article Summary

Summarize the article, making sure to answer the questions in the template.

- Why was the study conducted? (What will this study tell us about the topic? How will it help us to understand this topic better? What new piece of information will be obtained from this study?)
- What were the hypotheses? (Remember that hypotheses are prediction statements that are testable. The hypotheses should be stated in terms of comparisons between groups, or in terms of a relationship between two different measures.)
- Who participated? (How many participants, factors used to group participants, major selection criteria factors.)
- What did the researchers do? (What did the participants have to do? Did they complete a survey, do a task, etc.? What did the researchers measure?)
- What did they find? (This should come from the Results section of the article. Here you want to indicate what was compared, which group did better than which group on what measure, and then what that difference means. Or what measure was related to what measure, how change in one measure altered the other measure and what is suggested by this relationship. You don't need to include statistic analyses or graphs.)
- <u>Does this support or reject the hypotheses?</u> (Did the researchers find what they expected to find? Don't just say yes or no; please, explain.)
- What did they conclude based on their findings? (What can we conclude given the results, hypotheses, theory, and research questions?)

"How do I submit my writing assignment?"

You should submit your writing assignments using the link provided on Blackboard.

You should **name your attached file** including (1) your last name, (2) the class section, and (3) the name of the assignment. For example:

Smith_PSYC2120_WritingAssignment

Grading Rubric

Components	Unacceptable 0 points	Acceptable 5 point	Good 7 points	Excellent 10 points
Content and vocabulary	Little or no use of terms or incorrect use; clichés, idioms and colloquialisms	Minimal use of terms but in isolation or use of jargon; name dropping of authors or terms but insufficient context or explanation	Good use and linking of terms but still lacking fluency	Fluency, sequencing, + appropriateness of terms, concepts, practices
Quality of answers	Not all template sections were completed.	All sections were completed.	All sections were completed; some of the answers were incomplete, lacking central content.	All sections were completed; each answer was complete and appropriate
Mechanics	Several errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and/or sentence structure showing carelessness	A few overlooked errors	Few or no errors, but sentence structure could improve	No errors and excellent sentence structure and fluency

Writing assignment length policy:

Assignment with less than 1400 words > 4 points deduction Assignment with less than 1200 words > 8 points deduction Assignment with less than 1000 words > 16 points deduction Assignment with less than 800 words > 20 points deduction

Finally, **do not plagiarize!** Be very careful to cite conclusions, theories and ideas that you've acquired from other authors. Please, read the UNM Policy on Plagiarism here:

http://www.unm.edu/~unmvclib/handouts/somplagiarism.pdf

For further tips on writing a good term paper, you can download the *Writing for Psychology Guide* by Carson and colleagues (Harvard University College):

http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/writing_for_psych_final_from_printer.pdf



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