

Journal Article Review/Critique

The assignment is to read, understand, summarize and critique a peer-review paper. A PDF of the paper can be found on Canvas. You will read the article and write a 3-4 pages review of that article that includes a **minimum of 5 citations from the PRIMARY literature**. Don't forget to cite the article you are reviewing as well (this is in addition to the other 5 required). This assignment must be typewritten and double-spaced. It must **be submitted online** via Canvas (Must be a word document or a pdf) – no other format will be accepted. Remember, internet goes out, computers fail, websites go down, so allow time for any technological difficulties as these will **not** excuse a late turn in. Your Canvas submission will also be run through Vericite which is anti-plagiarism software and will cross check your work with books, journals, magazines, websites, and other students' work (at Brenau and all other universities and high schools) so make sure your work is strictly your own.

This is a scientific writing assignment. Your personal opinion should NOT be included. Additionally, the uses of person pronouns, informal speak, and unsupported arguments must be avoided.

This assignment will be scored out of **30 points** and will account for **25% of your grade**.

The article review should have three main parts:

- v A **heading** (2 points) which provides all the necessary bibliographic information about the article to include author name(s), year, title, journal name, volume, issue, page numbers (found at top or bottom of first page of paper typically)
- v A **summary** (10 points) which outlines the article and reports briefly on its purpose and overall argument
- v A **critique** (18 points) which uses knowledge of the field to evaluate the quality of the article

Here are some questions that you may try to answer in your report:

Summary

What is the purpose/goal of the research?

What is/are the hypothesis(es) being tested?

What predictions did the author(s) make?

Why is this hypothesis interesting? (not to you personally but to the contribution of science)

What species did the author(s) examine?

What methods did they use to test the hypothesis? What are the sample sizes?

What results were obtained?

What conclusions did the author(s) draw?

This must be in your own words. Do not just quote the authors' results section. Tell me what their results mean in plain English. Do NOT under any circumstances copy words/sentences from the article. This is plagiarism and WILL result in a grade of **zero**. Your work, including this summary of someone else's work, MUST be in your own words. It helps to jot down point-form notes in your own words as you read through the article and then use these and not the original article to write your

summary. Check and double check to ensure you are not plagiarizing.

In order to receive full points in this section, you must succinctly and accurately summarize the paper in your own words. This must be written in a formal language and must include all relevant information. I should be able to have a very good understanding of what was done, why, how, what the results were, and what conclusions/relevance were presented without ever reading the article myself. Spelling, grammar, sentence structure and formatting will be accounted for.

Critique

Why was this study undertaken?

What other questions could the author(s) have posed?

What are the long-term implications of this study?

Are the results sufficient for the author(s)' stated conclusions, and why or why not?

How could it be improved upon?

What implications do you think the study will have for the field of biology?

What are the conservation implications of the study, if any?

What would you suggest for future research?

Your review should be in the form of an **essay** that addresses the questions above and more. That is, do not just answer questions with a sentence, but apply critical thinking to go beyond the suggested questions. These article reviews should not be merely summaries. You should think about what you read and write a cohesive discussion of the research article. Do not directly copy sentences from texts, scientific papers, or other sources. This is plagiarism. When using these resources, you must paraphrase into your own words and **use proper citations (use APA formatting for citations – include both in-text citations as well as full citations at the end of your paper. If in doubt, double check with library staff how to appropriately cite in APA formatting as well as check out examples on Canvas)**. Do not panic if you have trouble understanding all of the statistical analyses portions of the Results section! Remember the results are interpreted for you in the Discussion section.

In order to receive full points for this section, you must evaluate and critique the paper and science within. This should include addressing questions like those above and should invoke critical thinking. This must be written in a formal language and if appropriate, citations must be included. Spelling, grammar, sentence structure and formatting will be accounted for.

See Canvas for a sample of a review. Although the subject matter is unrelated and the review is not perfect, it can provide as an example of writing style.

Assignments are time stamped and late penalties are as follows: 1 min – 24 hours late is 50% off. 25-72 hours late, 75% off. After 72 hours, the assignment will not be accepted. There will be NO

exception to these penalties so make sure you turn in this assignment with LOTS of time to spare. Remember, this is 25% of your grade.