Scientific Article Evaluation Assignment
General Guidelines for Psychology Courses
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The purpose of this assignment is to critically evaluate a research article relating to a theory or concept discussed in class. Choose a peer-reviewed journal article published within the past two years that relates to course material (see syllabus for schedule). Read and evaluate the article following the guidelines listed below. You may find that some of these articles are more difficult than you are accustomed to reading. You are highly encouraged to meet with your professor to better understand the articles you have selected. Each student will give a short (~5 min.) presentation during class time about the article they selected.

Each paper should be 2-3 double-spaced typed pages contain the following information.

1. A summary of the article
   Identify and explain the theory the researchers tested; Provide a concise summary of the major research findings; Definitions should be provided for important terms.
2. A description of the study's design
   What are the independent and dependent variables?; Did the researcher(s) use survey methods or collect observational data?; Is the study design experimental, quasi-experimental, or correlational?
3. A critical evaluation of the research study
   Identify third variables or moderator variables that might also influence the results; What if the researchers were to design their study differently or use different measurement techniques?; What hypotheses should future researchers test?
4. An overall conclusion
   1-2 positive sentences summarizing your paper and the application of the research.

Note: All assignments should be in APA style and stapled together. Articles should be summarized in your own words so that the paper is free of technical language and quotes. No late papers will be accepted.

Statistics is a prerequisite only for our research methods course. Therefore students who take courses with me (e.g., Social, Personality, Abnormal) may not have taken a statistics course and may not even be psychology majors or minors. Therefore you will notice that this general assignment does not assume that students have a background in statistics- students will be able to read the scientific articles and understand the results without having taken a statistics course before.

If statistics is a prerequisite for a course using a scientific article assignment, a fifth component could easily be added to the assignment criteria listed above. This component would then require students to identify which statistics were used to test a hypothesis. After identifying which stats were used, students could then indicate why those stats were used to analyze the data in addition to providing an interpretation of the statistical output.