

Goals for The Paper

1. To expose you to peer-reviewed, empirical articles in the study of psychology.
 2. To help you learn how to assess the validity of empirical articles, as something being published does not mean it is fact.
 3. To get you to start thinking about how the media we interact with every day is related to the psychological concepts you are learning about.
 4. To get you to think about and develop connections between the course material and your everyday life.
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Specific Paper Content

In the first portion of your paper, you will:

Summarize IN YOUR OWN WORDS the article you chose. A good summary will be at least ½-1 page, and will include the research question/hypothesis, a description of the participants, the methodology used (i.e., how did they test their research question? what did they make their participants do?), and a summary of the findings. Statistical values should be omitted from your summary—what we are looking for here is for you to determine whether their findings supported or refuted their hypothesis.

In the second portion of your paper, you will:

Evaluate the validity of the study. That is, you should state whether or not you agree with the findings of the study and explain why. The best papers will link their evaluations with the content discussed in the lecture and NOBA modules on research methods in psychology, and will be 1-1½ pages.

In the third portion of your paper, you will:

Relate the article to a real-world application in popular media or current events. Examples of such connections include, but are not limited to:

- A discussion of popular media reporting on this psychological phenomenon (e.g., in the news, on BuzzFeed, etc.).
- A description of when you saw the psychological concept discussed in your article depicted in popular media (e.g., television, books, music, etc.).
- Etc.

This section should be 1-1.5 pages long.

In the final portion of your paper, you will:

Relate the article to something in your life. Examples of such connections include, but are not limited to:

- A description of when something similar happened in your life (i.e., you experienced the phenomenon they were interested in studying).
- A description of how something in your life seems to contradict the findings of the paper.
- Etc.

This section should be 1-1.5 pages long.

Reference Page:

Cite the article you chose in APA format (see "How to Cite Journal Articles in APA Format" instructions on Canvas). The reference page DOES NOT count toward the 5-page requirement.

Grading Rubric

The paper will be graded out of 30 points, on a mostly completion basis. That is, as long as you *complete the requirements of the paper* and **DO NOT** plagiarize, you will receive full credit.

The 30 points will be awarded for the following:

1. 6 pts: A summary of the empirical article without plagiarism (cite all sources in APA format).
2. 6 pts: An evaluation of the findings and discussion of applicable research methods concepts discussed in lecture/the NOBA modules.
3. 6 pts: A convincing discussion of a connection between the article and a real-world media piece.
4. 6 pts: A convincing discussion of a connection between the article, media piece, and your everyday life.
5. 6pts: Correctly formatting the paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins all around, reference page in APA format) and meeting the 4.5-5 page length requirement.