

## Objectives

This assignment is designed to give students experience with the following:

1. Distinguish between primary and secondary literature sources.
2. Familiarize students with library data bases and search engines used to find primary and secondary literature sources.
3. Properly cite literature sources using APA formatting as described for this project.
4. Read primary literature and identify and describe the following:
  - a. Research question
  - b. Hypothesis
  - c. Methods
  - d. Results
    - i. Special emphasis is placed on interpreting the meaning of graphs and tables in the articles.
  - e. Conclusions
  - f. Making connections between the article and its contribution to the larger context of the topic being explored.
5. Practice scientific writing
6. Present scientific information to peers

## Description

Students will use primary and secondary literature sources to learn more about a topic that falls within the scope of topics covered in APHY. Students are encouraged to choose a topic that is related to professional or personal interests. Students will produce a 4 – 6 page paper (not including the cover page and the literature cited page), that includes a minimum of 2 primary literature resources and 2 secondary resources. Note that this is not a persuasive nor an argumentative writing assignment. Do not give your opinion on anything stated in the articles, just inform your audience about the articles. The purpose of this assignment is to give students the opportunity to practice scientific writing and to learn details about two scientific studies related to a topic of interest to the student. Finally, students will develop a 5 – 10 minute PowerPoint presentation to present their project to their peers at the end of the semester. Below is a brief description of the 4 sections that the final paper will contain.

1. **Section 1: Introduction** (1 – 3 paragraphs)
  - a. Describe general background information describing what is known about your topic.
    - i. This is the part of your paper where you will use secondary sources, as well as primary sources.
2. **Sections 2 & 3: Two primary literature dissections** (1 – 2 pages each section). For each article, students will use a narrative writing style to
  - a. identify the research question and hypothesis
  - b. describe the methods used

- i. explain the methods as if you are describing the project to a friend in your class
- ii. include details pertaining to the study design, being sure to clarify the following:
  - 1. dependent and independent variables
  - 2. control group
  - 3. sample size
  - 4. general techniques and equipment used
  - 5. duration and location of the study
  - 6. you do not need to describe the statistics used
- iii. describe the results
  - 1. what were the major findings of the paper?
    - a. Identify general trends and the specific results that demonstrate the general trends
- iv. describe the significance of the results
  - 1. what did this study contribute to the larger understanding of the topic?

3. **Section 4: Discussion** (1 – 3 paragraphs)

- a. Use information from both articles to explain how they relate to, deepen our understanding of, and/or contribute to the project topic for this assignment. In other words, take these two primary literature articles and discuss their contribution to the larger context of the topic being explored. Why are they important in the big picture?

Other basic criteria for this project include:

- Use only 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- APA format, font size = 12
- Literature cited page
  - Follow APA citation instructions
  - Minimum of 2 primary literature citations (used in the body of the paper)
  - Minimum of 2 secondary literature citations (used in Introduction and Discussion)
- Proper in-text citations
  - Follow APA citation instructions
- Cover page will include a title, your name, class section, and date
- Bold-faced section headings
  - Introduction,
  - Author(s) #1 with date of publication,
  - Author(s) #2 with data of publication,
  - Discussion