

WRITING AN ARTICLE CRITIQUE

An **article critique** is a short, focused paper (usually four to six double-spaced pages) that analytically evaluates a published journal article. Writing an article critique allows you to become familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of a single project. By identifying problem issues in published writings, you can learn style points and techniques to improve your own writing. Article critiques are relatively informal, though most contain the following sections that address specific questions:

- **Thesis or hypothesis:** What is the central question explored in this article? What is the study's main hypothesis?
- **Method:** What are the most important procedures the researcher(s) used to test the hypothesis? Were these methods suited to the task? Were the methods used appropriately? Were there enough participants? Were they drawn from an appropriate population? Were there any other problems? Be specific.
- **Evidence offered in support of the thesis or hypothesis:** How would you concisely summarize the main results of the research? Do the findings support the hypothesis? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the results? Were appropriate statistical tests used? How well do the results support the author's thesis?
- **Contribution to the psychological literature:** What are the major conclusions the researcher(s) draws from this study? How does this research affect the existing literature? Does it promote future research in a new or merely consistent direction? Are there any limitations to this work?
- **Assessment and recommendations:** Are the author's conclusions legitimate and scientifically valid? What audience will benefit from reading this article? What are the specific benefits? Can the findings be generalized to other times, places, and populations?

Your article critique can be organized around these sections. Ask your instructor for additional formatting instructions.

Dunn, D.S. (2011). *A short guide to writing about psychology* (3rd ed.). Pearson/Longman.