

Research Summary Guidelines

Topic & Journal Guidelines:

Choose a research article on the causes or treatment of an anxiety disorder, or mood disorder. Suggested search words include panic disorder, phobia, post traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, major depression, dysthymic disorder, unipolar depression, bipolar disorder, hypomania, mania, manic-depression.

Research articles must come from a professionally refereed journal (ex. Journal of Abnormal Psychology). Be sure the article is a research article. This means it describes a complete report of a study using correlational research, survey research, or some form of experiment. The article you choose should not simply be the discussion of a topic. The article should be a minimum of 5 full pages in length, not including the references. Brief articles (1-2 pgs.) such as articles found in *JAMA*, and other journals are not acceptable for this assignment. Please feel free to bring a copy of the article to class if you would like to have it checked.

Writing Guidelines:

Each research summary should be at least 3 typed pages in length, and written in APA format. (A brief APA guide follows and more information is available by [clicking here](#)). The summary should be made up of 5 sections, one for each of the following:

1. Purpose - What is the purpose of the research; what is the research question; what are the reasons for doing this study; and what is known about this topic from past research? 20pts.
2. Design - Describe the experimental design used, including how the research was conducted, a description of the subjects used, and a listing of any tests used. 20 pts.
3. Results - Describe what the researchers found when they conducted the experiment, and summarize what they concluded about the research question. 20 pts.
4. Limitations - What limitations did the article give about this research study or the results, and what other limitations do you think there are? 10 points
5. Discussion - What are the overall strengths and weaknesses of the research, and what did you learn from the article? 20 pts.

A copy of the article should be attached with your summary. You will need the full text of the article to be turned in. The title and abstract are not enough (10 pts.).

Guidelines To Finding Journal Articles

Articles may be found at the following locations:

1. Airport Campus Library:

This library contains the following psychology journals:

Annual Review of Psychology
Journal of Applied Behavioral Science
Journal of Community Psychology
Journal of Counseling Psychology
Developmental Psychology
Journal of Abnormal Psychology
American Journal of Psychology

2. Beltline Campus Library:

This library carries the following psychology journals:

Journal of Abnormal Psychology
Journal of Applied Psychology
Journal of Counseling Psychology
Journal of Family Psychology

3. Other Libraries:

The library at USC (Thomas Cooper Library) has a large collection of psychology journals on site that you can read and copy as needed. You can also access the computerized reference database for "PsychLit" from their library terminals.

4. Psych Articles: This is a reference database with the full text of many psychology journal articles. Access is possible from any MTC campus computer or home computer. To access PsychArticles you can click on the link on the class webpage, or from any computer:

1. Log onto the Internet and go to the Midlands Tech Library Homepage at:
www.lib.midlandstech.edu

2. Click on "Databases" tab on the left-hand side of the page, then click on PsycArticles (either under "Most Popular" tab or under the "Alphabetical Listing" tab).

3. Type in a search word, **and** check the box marked "FullText" to be sure you get articles that you can use. Then click on the "Search" button.

4. Review each entry of the search by clicking on its title.

5. When you find the article you want, then download it or print it out.

Contact the library at 822-3530 if you access the web using AOL, or if you have other problems accessing PsychArticles.

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APA Style Guidelines

1. Everything should be double-spaced.
2. All margins are to be 1 inch.
3. All type is to be 12 point only. No bold on text.
4. Every page should have a running head (short form of the title) and page number (placed to the right of the running head). The running head and page number should be aligned with the right hand margin.
5. Title page should include article title, your name and your institution (MTC).
6. You do not need to include an abstract or put each section on a different page.
7. Please use the headings given in your Article Review Writing Guidelines. All headings should be centered.
8. Every sentence with information taken from the text must be cited with author's names and the year of the article. Example: (Smith, 1999). This applies even if you put the information into your own words. If you directly quote the material it must be put in quotation marks and then the citation must include the page number. Example (Smith, 1999, p. 368) Also:
 - a. If there are three or more authors you can list all last names the first time, then every time after that put the first author's last name followed by et al.
 - b. The date for the article does not have to appear more than once in a paragraph. But when a new paragraph starts you must put the date in the citation again.
9. The reference page must be on a separate page. Please follow the format given in the APA guide for references. Also note that articles retrieved from the Internet (Infotrac) should be list differently from those you found in print from the library. See APA Guide – Internet References.
10. The reference list must include all articles you cited in your summary.