

Paper 1: Article Critique Instructions
(50 points possible)
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Purposes of Paper I (Article Critique Paper)

Paper 1 on the Senior Seminar's Purpose

This may be your first time reading and writing research in psychology, after taking PSY 3213, don't worry! You will have the chance to write about topics of your choice within the Topic of Understanding the Aging Workforce. One primary goal of Paper I is to give you insight into what goes into such papers. This article critique will help you:

- Better understand the psychology topic chosen for the course this semester (Understanding the Aging Workforce).
- Learn about the different parts of an empirical research report (e.g., Abstract, Literature Review, Methods, Results, Discussion/Conclusion and References).
- Use information gathered from research articles in psychology to better understand the topic of this Senior Seminar (Understanding the Aging Workforce)
- Improve your writing!

APA Formatting Purpose

The second purpose of Paper I: Mini-Literature Review is to teach you proper American Psychological Association (APA) formatting. There are a lot of very specific requirements in APA papers, so refer to the following resources as you write!

- The Paper I Checklist
- The Paper I Rubric

Writing Purpose

Finally, this paper is intended to help you grow as a writer. We will give you extensive feedback in terms of content, spelling, and grammar to help you improve for future assignments.

*If you have any questions about the articles, your ideas, or your writing, please ask. Although we won't be able to review entire drafts of papers before they are handed in, we are very willing to discuss problems, concerns, or issues that you might have!

Article Critique Paper (50 points possible)

In this relatively short paper, you will read one of the articles posted on Canvas and summarize what the authors did and what they found or if you prefer, you can critique an empirical article you found on your own on the topic of the course (Understanding the Aging Workforce). If you find an article on your own, make sure it is a Peer reviewed, empirical article.

Layout:

- The title page
- Comprehensive Summary of the article
- Critique of the article
- Brief summary of the article
- Appropriate referencing for the article

Instructions:

For all papers, **everything** is double-spaced and uses size 12, Times New Roman font. This includes everything from the title page through the references.

Title Page: 1-page (4 points)

- The header should appear on all pages of your paper, but the "Running Head" will only be on the Title page. Check the APA YouTube video!
- Use APA style!
- Make up a title (not "Paper r")
- Your institution will appear on the title page as well

Global Summary of the Article: 1-page min., 3 pages max. (14 points)

Summarize, in your own words, the article research question and how it was addressed in the article. Below are some things to include in your summary.

- Full title should be at the top of the page on the very first line and be centered.
- For this paper, add the word "Summary" below the title, centered and in bold.
- The summary itself will include the following:
 - Type of study (Was it experimental or correlational? How do you know?)
 - Variables (What were the independent and dependent variables? Be specific with these. Define the terms independent and dependent variable and make sure to identify how they are operationally defined in the article)
 - Method (Was there a random sample of participants? Was there random assignment to groups? What did the participants do in the study?)
 - Summary of findings (What were their findings?)

Critique of the study: 1-page min., 3 pages max. (16 points)

This section should focus on your own thoughts about the content of the article (i.e. your own ideas in your own words).

Place "Critique" before this section, bold and centered (do not start a new page).

Demonstrate critical thinking in your writing. Address **at least four** of the following elements:

- In your opinion, how valid and reliable is the study? Why? Make sure to define what reliable and valid mean and apply these definitions to the study. Saying that it is valid and reliable is not enough, you have to apply those terms to the article.
- Did the study authors correctly interpret their findings, or are there any alternative interpretations you can think of?
- Did the authors of the study employ appropriate ethical safeguards?
- Briefly describe a follow-up study you might design that builds on the findings of the study. You may cite other studies if you'd like.
- Describe whether you feel the results presented in the article are weaker or stronger than the authors claim (and why); or refer to point b. How might we test between the proposed and alternate interpretations?
- Mention additional implications of the findings not mentioned in the article (either theoretical or practical/applied)
- Identify specific problems in the theory, discussion or empirical research presented in the article and how these problems could be corrected. If you discuss methodological issues, then they **must** be substantial enough to affect the interpretations of the findings or arguments presented in the article. Furthermore, please also suggest how it could be resolved and why your proposed solution would be preferable.
- Describe how/why the method used in the article is either better or worse for addressing a particular issue than other methods

Brief Summary (8 points)

- "Brief Summary", bold and centered.
- In one or two paragraphs maximum, summarize the article again, but this time I want it to be very short. In other words, take all the information that you talked about in the summary portion of this assignment and write it again, but this time in only a few sentences.
- The reason for this section is that I want to make sure you can understand the whole study but that you can also write about it in a shorter paragraph that still emphasizes the main points of the article. If you really understand the study, you only need that much space to describe it.
- For future papers in this course, you might be able to reuse this section (like in your Lit Review Paper II). Just make sure your short summary provides some good details about what the article was about and how the study was run!
- As a hint for this section, look at the article abstract and rephrase it in your own words!

References 1-page (4 points)

- Provide the reference for this article in proper APA format. Formatting is tricky for this part! Pay attention to what is capitalized and/or in italics and what is not!
- If you cited other sources during either your critique or summary, reference them as well (this is optional).

Grammar and Writing Quality (4 points)

- This is not College Writing 101-you are expected to write at a college level.
- Avoid run-on sentences, sentence fragments, spelling errors, and grammar errors.
- If you know your grammar is poor, have a friend proof-read!
- Recognize and fix issues now!
- We will give you feedback, so make sure to take our feedback s comments seriously and seek help from peers and especially from FIU writing center if we recommend it.