

EDUC 1300

Journal Article Review

Student Learning Outcomes

	At the successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to:
LO3.	critique the quality and results of the current research in the content areas of learning, cognition, or motivation.
LO4.	compare the historical, biological, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions of learning and how they influence human behavior
LO5.	examine the psychology of learning, cognition, and motivation through theory and research.
LO6.	compose writing assignment(s) using Standard American English and basic computer skills.

Directions: Find and critique a research article from a peer-reviewed educational psychology journal. **You should choose an article related to the topics of learning, cognition, and/or motivation.** The article can focus on one of these topics or on how the three relate. This article will be a source for your Learning, Cognition, and Motivation presentation.

What is a Journal Article Review?

The purpose of this assignment is to help you understand how research is conducted and reported in educational psychology. You will read a peer-reviewed article from a scholarly journal in the field of educational/cognitive psychology. Articles of this type will typically report on original research or replications of previously conducted experiments, or they will be literature reviews in which the author(s) present the results of a literature search on a specific topic. In the latter case, the article will usually be a dissertation on the most current thinking on a specific topic. In short, a journal article review summarizes current research or analyzes the validity (strength) of a research study.

Steps for Writing a Journal Article Review:

1. **Choose a scholarly article about cognition, learning, and/or motivation.**

How Do I Locate a Journal Article?

You can't just "google" your topic for this assignment and use the information in the first link you see in your results list. You must use a peer-reviewed journal article. This is an article written by an expert in the field of education/psychology which is then reviewed by other experts in the field before it is published. A peer-reviewed journal article is easily found through a research database.

You can search for articles using NCTC's library databases (either on-campus or off-campus). To access the databases:

- log in to My NCTC.
- Click on the Library Resources link (left hand side of the screen).
- Choose a database (Academic Search Complete).
- Enter the username and password provided:
 - Username: nctc
 - Password: testing
- You will be directed to a search page. You should limit your search to:
 - Full text scholarly (peer reviewed) journals
 - Published in the past 5 years
 - Enter your subject in the search box
 - You will generate a list of articles which can be accessed online. There are other search engines you can use, and the reference librarian is a good resource for this information.

2. **READ your article and take notes using the guiding questions below.**

Most journal articles are written in a set format including:

- an introduction (introduces the purpose of the study)
- a method section (describes how the study was conducted)
- a results section (explains the results of the study)
- and a discussion section (draws conclusions from the data collected in the study and suggests further research)

Note: Not all of the questions will apply to your article, and you don't need to answer every question listed, but do be as comprehensive as possible in your review. Remember to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the article/study.

I. Preliminary Analysis of an Article

- What are the author's credentials and institutional affiliation?
- Has the author's work been cited by others?
- Is the publication current or dated?
- Is the work published by a publisher of professional books or journals?
- Is the work peer reviewed?
- Is the source a scholarly journal?

II. The Introduction

- Has relevant research been adequately reviewed?
- Are assertions supported with appropriate citations?
- Are the purposes of the study clearly stated?
- Are the hypotheses clearly stated, and do they flow logically from the information in the introduction?

III. The Method Section

- Was the nature of the subject sample specified?
- Does the design of the study allow an adequate test of the hypotheses?
- Are there any methodological flaws that might affect the validity of the results?
- Is sufficient detail presented to allow one to replicate the study?

IV. The Results Section

- Did the statistically significant effects support or refute the hypotheses?
- Are the differences reported large or small?
- Were the appropriate statistics used?
- Do the tables, figures, and text match?

V. The Discussion Section

- Do the conclusions presented match the results reported?
- If the author speculates about implications of results, does he or she stray too far from the results reported?
- How well do the results mesh with existing theory and empirical data?
- Does the author point the way to directions for further research?

Steps (continued):

3. Write your journal article review.

Using the notes you took as you read, write a review of the article. In writing the review, DO NOT simply go through each of the questions listed below and give a response. Your article review should have the following components:

- an introduction that summarizes the study described in the article
- a section that critiques the study's methodology and results
- a conclusion that discusses the study's merit and implications for further research or educational practice.

Your journal article review should be:

- 2-3 pages long
- typed, double-spaced in 12pt, Times New Roman font
- Have a heading that includes your name, course and section number, instructor name and date
- Include a citation in APA style

Make sure you submit the following documents:

1. Submit your article review as a separate WORD or PDF document.
2. Submit the actual journal article (you may submit a link to the journal article or the actual article in PDF).

Below is an example of the proper form for your journal article review.

Your Name

EDUC 1300.312

Professor Forbis

September 23, 2017

Citation: Author(s). (year of publication). Article title. *Journal name, volume, number, pages.*

Hidi, S. (2016). Revisiting the role of rewards in motivation and learning: Implications of neuroscientific research. *Educational Psychology Review, 28*(1), 61-93.

- First, summarize the article. Your summary should include the author and title, the hypothesis, the methodology, and the results of the study. Your summary should be approximately 200-300 words.
- Next, explain and critique the methods used and/or the findings presented (200-300 words). Use your notes from the guiding questions (specifically the questions regarding the method and results section).
- Finally, offer your opinion on the value of the study. Will this study further our knowledge base or the goals of psychology, i.e., to describe, explain, predict and influence behavior? What does it add to our knowledge of educational psychology? (100-200 words)

Journal Article Review Rubric

Criteria	Full Credit 20 pts	Partial Credit 10 pts	No Credit 0 pts
Article Choice (20 pts) (LO 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article is scholarly, peer-reviewed, contains original research, and is applicable to the assigned topic 	The journal article is a scholarly article published in a peer-reviewed journal. The subject of the article is relevant to the assigned topic.	The journal article was written by an expert in the field, but did not present the results of a research study, or the subject of the article is not relevant to this course.	The article chosen is not scholarly and/or not relevant to the assigned topic.
Article Summary (20 pts) (LO 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article is well-summarized and explains the methods, sources, findings, conclusions, and/or analysis present in the article 	The review provides a complete summary of the article including explanations of the purpose, methods, sources, findings, and conclusions.	The review partially summarizes the purpose, methods, sources, findings, and conclusions of the article.	The review did not summarize the article.
Article Critique (20 pts) (LO 3,4,5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review analyzes and evaluates the methods, sources, findings, and conclusions in the article and is well-supported by facts and accepted theory rather than opinion. 	The review completely critiques the research methods used and/or the findings presented. The review includes logical analysis and critical thinking to provide a coherent and thorough critique.	The review attempts a critique of the research methods used and/or the findings presented, but the critique was lacking in explanation and critical thinking.	The review did not critique the research methods or findings of the study.
Article Conclusion (20 pts) (LO3,4,5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review contains a conclusion that includes a discussion of the value of the study in terms of connections to and impact in the field of educational psychology. The opinion in the conclusion is well-supported by facts and theory. 	The review offers an informed opinion about the value of the study/article. The student explains his/her opinion using supportive detail and theory.	The review offers an opinion about the study/article, but doesn't use supportive detail or theory to explain the stance.	The review did not provide an opinion on the value of the study.
Format (20 pts) (LO 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review uses APA citation, is two-three pages, double spaced, and uses conventions and writing style consistent with college-level work. 	The review includes APA citation of the article, is 2-3 pages in length, and uses Standard English and a professional tone.	The review is written in a somewhat professional manner, but has errors in grammar, mechanics or tone that distract the reader.	The review is not written in APA style, or in a professional tone. The review has multiple errors in grammar and mechanics.
Total Score			_____/100

Learning Objective Mastery	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	No Submission
LO 3: Critique the quality and results of the current research in the content areas of learning, cognition, or motivation.			
LO 4: Compare the historical, biological, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions of learning and how they influence human behavior			
LO 5: Describe the research and theory in the psychology of learning, cognition, and motivation.			
LO 6: Examine the psychology of learning, cognition, and motivation through theory and research.			
PO 1: Critical Thinking			
PO 2: Communication			