

PSY 215 Module Two Journal Guidelines and Rubric

For this journal task, you will first select one of three tracks in the study of abnormal psychology (biological, psychological, or sociocultural), on which you will focus your final project research investigation. Next, you will analyze *one* of the articles within the track, which will provide practice for your literature review.

Prompt: First, refer to the Tracks and Topics for the Final Project document and select a track that you would like to focus your final project on. (*Note: In this document, you are provided with three articles for each topic, but you will need to find two additional articles to use for your final project.*)

Choose your track thoughtfully, as you will not be able to switch your track once chosen. Do not worry if you are not familiar with the tracks at this point in the course; you will be learning much more about them throughout the term. Please be sure to contact your instructor if you are having any trouble choosing your track. Review [this tutorial](#) to help you with the Track and Topic Selection Process.

Next, analyze *one* of the articles within the tracks which, will provide practice for your literature review. When you complete your literature review, you will be addressing more specific elements. These questions are the first thing to think about when beginning a literature review. Keep in mind that these questions are practice and preparation for the more detailed literature review elements to come.

In your journal assignment, answer the following questions about the article:

- What is the **title** of the article? Provide the reference for the article in proper **APA** format.
- What is the **purpose** of the article?
- What is the hypothesis of the study? In other words, what **claims** do the authors make in the article?
- What **variables** (factors) are being looked at as an influence on abnormal behavior?
- If these variables or the relationship between these variables have been studied before, what does the article indicate about the findings of previous studies? This shows **historical significance**.
- Describe the type of **research design** that was used in the study.
- Do you think the research in this article was conducted in an **ethical manner**? Why or why not?
- What was the **outcome(s)** of the study, that is, the **conclusions** that the authors made as a result of the study?

Each question requires an answer in one to three sentences, although you can write more if needed. This should result in a journal assignment that is around 1 page in length. Be sure to cite directly from the article to support your answers. Please refer to the [Online Tutoring Service](#) tutorials to assist you in your writing and to the Research & Citations page on the [SNHU Online Writing Center](#) website for proper APA formatting of sources.

Guidelines for Submission: Submit assignment as a Word document with double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins

Rubric

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Article: Title (APA)	Provides title and the reference for the article in proper APA format	Provides title, but does not provide the reference for the article in proper APA format	Title and APA reference not provided	12
Article: Purpose	Describes the purpose of the article	Describes the article, but does not sufficiently describe the purpose of the article	Description not provided	12
Claims	Description identifies the claims the authors make in the article	Description does not sufficiently identify the claims the authors make in the article	Description not provided	12
Variables	Description identifies the variables (factors) that are being looked at as an influence on abnormal behavior	Description does not sufficiently identify the variables (factors) that are being looked at as an influence on abnormal behavior	Description not provided	12
Historical Significance	Describes the historical significance of previous studies	Describes the historical significance of previous studies, but description is not relevant to the current variables under consideration	Description not provided	12
Research Design	Describes the research design that is used in the study	Describes the research design that is used in the study, but description is lacking in detail	Description not provided	12
Ethics	Describes whether or not the research in the article was conducted in an ethical manner	Describes whether or not the research in the article was conducted in an ethical manner, but does not sufficiently defend stance	Description not provided	12
Outcome(s)/ Conclusions	Describes the outcome(s)/ conclusions that the authors made as a result of the study	Describes the outcome(s)/ conclusions that the authors made as a result of the study, but description is cursory or lacking in detail	Description not provided	12

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Articulation of Response	Journal assignment is free of errors in organization and grammar	Journal assignment contains errors of organization and grammar, but errors are limited enough so that assignment can be understood	Journal assignment contains errors of organization and grammar making the assignment difficult to understand	4
Total				100%