

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH REPORT

**Materials:** You will first need to select an article from one of the scholarly journals in psychology listed below. Articles should meet the following criteria:

1. The article must be an empirical research article. An empirical research article presents original research conducted by the author(s). The article should contain detailed information about the methods and results of the research.
2. Review articles in which the author(s) summarizes past research, but does not present an original research study are not acceptable.
3. Students must NOT use information from popular press books or magazines (NO Psychology Today articles).
4. The article should be published in one of the journals listed below.
5. The article should be at least five pages in length.
6. The article should have been published in the last 10 years.

### Approved Journal List:

Adolescence  
American Journal of Family Therapy  
Applied Cognitive Psychology  
Basic and Applied Social Psychology  
British Journal of Social Psychology  
Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice  
Developmental Psychology  
Exceptional Children  
Journal of Applied Social Psychology  
Psychology and Aging  
Psychological Science  
School Psychology Review  
School Psychology Quarterly

### Finding an article:

Many articles are available full-text online, but you will need to access them via the Cook Library website: <http://libraries.towson.edu/>. Click on Databases, then search for PsycINFO, then start searching for articles using the search fields. You may find articles in Google Scholar, but you will have more access to many more articles in PsycINFO. If you have not done this before, we highly recommend that you take this instruction page to the library and ask for the assistance of a reference librarian.

PSYC 101 course research guide: <http://towson.libguides.com/psyc101>

Psychology subject research guide: <http://towson.libguides.com/psyc>

### **Writing the summary:**

All summaries must be typed, be in prose (not outline form), and conform to proper grammar. Each summary should be 3-4 double-spaced pages in addition to the cover page. **You must include a *photocopy or printout of the complete original journal article*.**

**DEADLINE: Research reports (with cover sheet and copy of article) must be submitted in hard copy form in by the last day of classes by 4:30 p.m. in LA 2210.**

**NOTICE:** Research reports must not be plagiarized. Plagiarism (which includes copying material from another student or directly from a book, article, or online source) is a form of cheating. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the Psychology Research Administrator will inform the course instructor and investigate the matter. If it is established that the student plagiarized, a penalty (up to and including an F in the course) will be assessed according to University policy. So, be careful to use your own words to summarize the article.

## Cover Page

### Research Report for Research Credit

**IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Research reports (with cover sheet and copy of article) must be submitted in hard copy form in by the last day of classes by 4:30 p.m. in LA 2210.**

If you have a problem, email [researchadmin@towson.edu](mailto:researchadmin@towson.edu) .

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

PSYC 101/102 Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Author(s) of article

Year of publication

Title of article

Journal name

All summaries must be typed, be in prose (not outline form), and conform to proper grammar. Each summary should be 3-4 double-spaced pages. **You must include a *photocopy* of the complete original journal article.**

Attach a typed report in which you answer the questions on the following page:

1. Describe the general topic of the research paper (e.g., social psychology, cognition, personality, developmental, clinical disorders....).
2. Describe the specific hypothesis or question being tested.
3. If the research was an experiment, what were the independent and dependent variables? If the study was correlational, what were the important variables measured?
4. Briefly describe the method used to test the hypothesis (e.g., who were the participants, what were they asked to do, how were data collected...).
5. What did the researcher find? Note: You do NOT need to provide precise statistical data; it is more appropriate to give a summary. What conclusions can be reached from this research?
6. How are the results important (e.g. Can they be applied to solve social or individual problems, do they change the way other studies are interpreted, do they support one theory over another, do they help explain past research findings?)
7. Identify and discuss shortcomings or limitations of the research.
8. What were the author's suggestions for future research?