

Rubric for Journal Article Critiques

Overview:

- a. What did the researchers want to do?
- b. What was the situation (e.g., field or laboratory) used in the test?
- c. What was the method of analysis?

Framework of the study:

- a. Was it objective?
- b. Discuss the phraseology used, and whether it reflected bias.

Methods:

- a. What was the set of variables?
- b. What method (e.g., experiment, correlation, observation, archival) was used?
- c. Did the authors mention problems or doubts with regard to their method?
- d. Did any variables or data appear to be missing?

Findings and conclusions:

- a. What data were given?
- b. Were any data held back?

Summary:

- a. Was this study acceptable?
- b. Were there limitations; what were they?
- c. Were there major errors; what were they?
- d. Was this a replication or did it contain internal replications of the study (e.g., several iterations of the same study within the article)?
- e. Do the authors call for further research in this area? If so, discuss it?
- f. Did the authors do what they set out to do?

Writing:

- a. Correct APA style for the in-text article citation.
- b. Correct APA style for the article in the Reference section.
- c. General writing quality.