

## HOW TO CRITIQUE A JOURNAL ARTICLE

First of all, it may seem difficult for the first time, but as you do it systematically again and again, you will end up mastering the critique very efficiently.

A- In the beginning of your critique, include some basic information from the article:

1. Name(s) of the author(s)
2. Title of article.
3. Title of the journal, volume number, date, month and page numbers.
4. The aim (or the purpose of the study).
5. Brief description of the methods.
6. The main findings.
7. The major conclusions.

B- The bulk of your critique, however, should consist of your qualified opinion of the article. Read the article you are to critique once to get an overview. Then read it again, critically. At this point you may want to make some notes to yourself on your copy.

The following are some questions you may want to address in your critique no matter what type of article you are critiquing:

1. Is the title of the article appropriate and clear?
2. Is the abstract specific, representative of the article, and in the correct form?
3. Is the purpose of the article made clear in the introduction?
4. Is the issue raised by this article is important for the field?
5. Are the study design and methods appropriate for the purposes of the study?
6. Are the experimental methods described adequately? Are there enough details to enable a reader to duplicate them?
7. Do you find errors of fact and interpretation in this article?
8. Is all of the discussion relevant?
9. Has the author cited only the pertinent literature? If the author has included irrelevant references, or references that are not pertinent, suggest deleting them.
10. Have any ideas been overemphasized or underemphasized? Suggest specific revisions.
11. Should some sections of the article be expanded, condensed or omitted?
12. Are the author's statements clear? Challenge ambiguous statements. Suggest how clarity can be achieved, but do not merely substitute your style for the author's.
13. What underlying assumptions does the author have?
14. Has the author been objective in his or her discussion of the topic?
15. Is the conclusion clear, brief and reflects the findings of the study?

C- This critique should be typed in a 2-3 pages maximum and submitted to the course instructors on due date. In addition to handing out your written report, you will be required to **orally present** your critique in no more than 10 minutes in front of your class mates.