

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

For those students who are unable to participate in research studies due to age, lack of time, or missing an appointment (see no-show policy), you have the option of completing an Alternative Assignment that will count towards your research requirement hours for the semester. Please note that students CAN COMBINE Alternative Assignment credits with research study credits to meet the specified semester credit requirements. **DUE DATE:** A hard copy (emailed assignments will not be accepted) of the alternative assignment must be submitted to your instructor **no later than December 11th, 2013** in order to receive full credit.

INSTRUCTIONS:

The alternative assignment consists of reading one **scholarly journal article** and providing a ½ page *summary* of the article as well as a ½ page *reflection* of the article. The alternative assignment write up should never exceed more than 1 page.

SUMMARY:

In ½ pages, briefly state the purpose of the article and summarize the findings/results. You may also mention the method used for collecting data as well.

REFLECTION:

In ½ pages, provide a brief reflection of your thoughts regarding the article. You can cover such topics as: Were the results surprising to you? How do you think this study adds to the field of psychology? What was your overall opinion of the article? Did you like it? Dislike it?

The credit (in hours) you receive will be dependent upon the *length* of the article(s) you read. The criteria are:

5 to 10 page article	=	1 hour of credit
11 to 15 page article	=	2 hours of credit
16 to 20 page article	=	3 hours of credit
21+ page article	=	4 hours of credit

Example: An article from pages 227-241 is counted as 2 hours of credit (14 pages)

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **A copy of the article MUST be attached to your write up.** The article **MUST SHOW** the publication it came from and the page numbers. You may not type the name and page numbers in yourself.
- 2) **Article must be from SCIENTIFIC, PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL.** You may choose any topic to write about as long as it is psychology related. (*NOTE:* Newspapers, magazines, books, book reviews, dissertations or websites articles are **inappropriate** for this assignment. For example, *San Jose Mercury News, Psychology Today, Newsweek, and Depression.com* are all unacceptable sources.)
- 3) A hard copy of your assignment and article must be submitted to your professor no later than December 11th in order to receive full credit. **Assignments submitted via email WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

SOME HELPFUL TIPS:

The following are **good examples** of good scientific journals:

- American Psychologist
- Child Development
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Psychology Databases can be accessed at the following link:

<http://library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases/subject/psychology>

Need help finding scholarly or peer reviewed articles? View this online tutorial from the King Library:

<http://library.sjsu.edu/video/finding-scholarly-peer-reviewed-articles>

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT FORMAT:

Please adhere to the following formatting instructions for your Alternative Assignment write up. Also, don't forget to attach your article along with the write up! Failure to follow these instructions may result in partial credit.

(Top right side of the page)

Name

SJSU ID#

Professor's name

Section #/ Day / Time of class

Title of the Article

Summary

In ½ pages, briefly state the purpose of the article and summarize the findings/results. You may also mention the method used for collecting data as well. Paragraph may be double-spaced. Make sure you have set your margins at one inch! Paragraphs must be a minimum of at least 5 sentences.

Reflection

In ½ pages, provide a brief reflection of your thoughts regarding the article. You can cover such topics as: Were the results surprising to you? How do you think this study adds to the field of psychology? What was your overall opinion of the article? Did you like it? Dislike it? Paragraph may be double-spaced. Make sure you have set your margins at one inch! Paragraphs must be a minimum of at least 5 sentences.