

# Research Methods Article Critique

## CAS 204 Spring 2014

*Final point value: 50 points*

You will choose an article that discusses a research study of some kind. Though an article pertaining to communication would be extra relevant, you are not limited to that. The goal of this critique is to link the information presented about research in the article to the knowledge you have gained in the research methods class so far.

### Specific Requirements:

**Length:** Three pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, with a printer friendly copy of the article attached to your paper. **Everything stapled together.** There should be an introduction, body, and conclusion. Papers must be *proofread* and exhibit correct spelling, grammar, and paragraph structure that contribute to a cohesive essay.

**Sources:** You may choose to critique an article in the *Centre Daily Times*, *USA Today*, *NY Times*, or another news source. You may also choose to critique a primary source of research by looking at the libraries website ([www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu)) and clicking on either E-Journals or Databases. See Amber for help with this if needed. **A word of advice, run your source idea by me well in advance and be careful choosing primary sources of research because they are of a higher quality and more sophisticated language, which may make the assignment more difficult than it needs to be.** If you are using an online source, be sure it is an actual article from a reputable publication. I'm happy to approve or discourage source ideas.

**Concepts to apply:** As you are reading your article, you may choose to critique a number of concepts that have been covered so far in class. These include, but are not limited to:

- Type of study: quantitative, qualitative
- Hypothesis, research questions
- Sampling procedures (representativeness, characteristics of sample)
- Survey methods (advantages, disadvantages) / Experimental research
- Measurement: level, reliability, validity
- Descriptive statistics
- Inferential statistics
- Ethical considerations
- Questions to ask of yourself as a consumer of research, and questions to ask the researcher
- Presentation of information by the author of the article (Significant omissions? Misleading wording? Enough information to look up the primary source?)

**FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS! Make sure that the paper is of the correct length and formatting, that you have attached a *printer friendly* version of the article, that everything is *stapled*, that you included all relevant concepts, etc.**