Research Summaries

Peer-reviewed research is the foundation of the science of psychology. Psychology stays fresh and interesting because new researchers are constantly building on the knowledge of those who came before them. It is my hope that all of my students will learn to love the scientific method and the fascinating studies that it produces; however, it is equally important to me that you are able to review scientific findings with a critical eye. With this goal in mind, I invite each of you this semester to familiarize yourselves with an original piece of scientific research from a peer-reviewed source.

The steps to the assignment follow:

1. Select a topic that directly relates to the psychology of girls and/or women (e.g., women and depression).
2. Choose an article that relates to your topic. Articles must be from a peer-reviewed source published in the last 5 years.
3. Type a 2 - 3 page, double-spaced summary of the article. Please include why you selected this topic, how it relates to the psychology of women, your reaction (e.g., whether you were surprised by the findings), strengths and weaknesses of the methodology, and a complete citation of your source. Paper should use a 10- to 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1- to 1.5-inch margins, and be submitted in rich text format (rtf) or pdf. Turn in through Canvas.

The following grading rubric will be used:

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| Article is from an appropriate source (i.e., a peer-reviewed journal from the last 5 years) | 20 |
| Clarity of writing & quality of content | 20 |
| Paper identifies how topic relates to the psychology of women, why you chose it, your reaction, strengths and weaknesses of the methodology, and complete source citation | 50 |
| Proper format (length, font, margins) | 10 |
| **Total** | **100** |

**Peer-reviewed journals are available online through the school library's Research Databases.  Relevant examples include *Addiction, New England Journal of Medicine, Adolescence, International Journal of Eating Disorders, Psychology of Women, Journal of Sex Research. T*hese are just a few; check with a resource librarian if you want help finding others.  Note: *Psychology Today* and other popular magazines do not count as peer-reviewed sources.**