

**Alternative Assignment for Research Participation Credit
Austin Peay State University**

Students choosing the Alternative Assignment option must read a pre-approved article about psychological research and then write a 1-2 page summary of the article. **Each summary will equal two (2) research credits.**

Papers are due by the end of the semester on the last official day of classes at 11:59pm.

Submitting your papers:

You may submit the alternative assignment via email to research-admin@apsu.edu. Your summary must be saved as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or pdf file type. Assignments submitted in other formats will not be reviewed for research credit.

You must select a pre-approved article from the list provided on the Alternative Assignment Articles link found on the department Research Pool website. These articles have been selected by your professors as they cover a wide variety of research areas in the field of psychology.

For each article, you are required to prepare a brief (1-2 page) typewritten paper summarizing its contents. The first section of each paper should summarize the research presented in the article and the contributions related to its findings/conclusions. The second section of each paper should contain your original reactions to the article including your thoughts on the quality of the study, its generalizability, and application of findings to the real world. Rationale and/or supporting arguments for all reactions should be provided. Omitting either section of the paper will result in no credit being awarded for the submission.

The list of available articles can be found [here](#).

Formatting: Papers must be formatted as described below:

- Double spaced
- Margins no larger than 1-inch
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Include the following heading information on the first page of your paper (single spaced):
 - Your first and last name
 - Your Sona Systems username
 - Your instructor's name
 - Your course information (Title & Number)

The text of the summary, not including any heading information at the top, must be longer than 1 page, and cannot be longer than 2 pages. You do not need a "works cited" or "references" page. You are not allowed to include direct quotes in these papers; the summaries should be written in your own words so that it's clear you have understood the information in the articles. While one or two grammatical or spelling errors will not result in a penalty, excessive errors will result in no credit granted for the submission. As with all research participation, papers are evaluated on a complete/incomplete basis. Papers plagiarized or copied from other sources and/or that do not follow the formatting and other instructions contained in this document will not receive credit.

Some questions you might answer in your article summaries:

- What was the study about?
- What did the researchers hypothesize?
- How did they conduct their study?
- What was the method? Was it appropriate for their research question/hypothesis?
- What did they find?
- Do the results apply to the real world?
- What do the findings mean?
- How do the findings impact everyday life?

Student Code of Conduct: Like all coursework, these article summaries are bound by the Student Code of Conduct. Papers that are plagiarized will be submitted as a code violation. Plagiarism includes (1) using sentences in your summary that are identical, or nearly identical, to sentences in the article, and (2) copying the work of other students, from the present or past semesters.

Summary of Paper Requirements

- 1) Correct formatting (1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12 pt font, double spaced)
- 2) Heading information (first and last name, Sona Systems User ID, instructor's name, courses)
- 3) Heading information single (not double spaced)
- 4) Must be at least 1 page (not including heading information) and no more than 2 pages
- 5) Must include a thoughtful reaction to and critical evaluation of the paper/findings
- 6) Summary of article with no direct quotations and no plagiarism
- 7) Paper must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or pdf.