

RESEARCH CRITIQUE

ABSTRACT FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

DESCRIPTION

The Research Critique abstract is designed to develop professional writing and critical thinking skills. Submissions in this category are limited to succinct critiques of scholarly research articles within the profession.

GOALS

The primary goals of the Research Critique abstract are to:

- Identify important information within the article,
- Formulate an original and insightful critique,
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics,
- Adhere to all formatting requirements.

ARTICLE REQUIREMENTS

Any scholarly research article within the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport psychology, nutrition, dance, and recreation may be used. The key is to find an article that is interesting and challenging. You will critique only one article per abstract.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The specific formatting requirements for each part of the abstract are detailed below. For further clarification, please refer to the Sample Research Critique abstract available on-line.

Dimensions & Layout

The abstract must be typed on an 8.5" x 11" document, in Portrait layout.

Page Margins

All margins (top, bottom, left, and right) must be set to one-inch (1").

Length

The abstract must be EXACTLY one-page (1) in length.

Text Justification

All text, including the title, headers, and body text should be justified to the left margin.

Font Selection, Sizing & Formatting

Times New Roman font should be used throughout the entire abstract. Specific sizing and formatting requirements are as follows...

NOTE: Please follow these guidelines to the letter! DO NOT include additional style formatting, such as bolding or italics, if they are not mentioned specifically.

- Title – 18 pt., UPPER CASE, maximum one line in length
- Tagline – 10 pt., maximum one line in length
- Name, Email, and University – 10 pt., Title Case
- Content Headers – 12 pt., UPPER CASE, **bolded**
NOTE: Content headers for Research Critique are Purpose, Methods, Results & Discussion, Critique, and References.
- Body Text – 12 pt., Sentence case
- Table Title – 10 pt., centered above table, Title Case, **bolded**
- Table Text – 10 pt. centered within table, Title Case
- Table Label and Caption – 10 pt., Sentence case, placed below and justified with left side of table.
- References – 10 pt., APA guidelines for case and *italics*

Title

At the top of the abstract, provide an **original** title related to the topic of the reviewed article. The title must succinctly convey the focus of the abstract and critiqued article. **The abstract title must not be the same as the title of the critiqued article!**

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Tagline

Directly underneath the title, insert a tagline that specifies the author, year, and title of the critiqued article. The tagline must not exceed one line in length, so the article title may need to be abbreviated (see example below). The tagline should be placed below the title of the abstract and above the Name, Email, and University line.

Example

A report of the work of W.M. Silvers (2009), “Muscle activation and electrical energy assessment during aquatic...”

Name, Email, and University

Directly underneath the tagline, provide your first and middle initials followed by your last name. Following your name, provide a preferred email address. Following the email address, list your academic institution or professional affiliation. Your name, email, and university should be separated by hyphens “ – “.

Example

B. E. Leonardo – blueninja@hotmail.com – Ithaca University

Content and Content Headers

Abstract content will be inserted one 12 pt. line beneath the Name, Email, and University. Content for the Research Critique abstract should be organized into separate sections under the following content headers: **Purpose, Methods, Results & Discussion, Critique, and References.** Appropriate content for each section should be inserted directly underneath each content header. A single 12 pt. line should separate each section of the abstract. Refer to the Sample Research Critique abstract (available on-line) for clarification.

CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Purpose

In this section, succinctly paraphrase the purpose statement(s) listed in the critiqued article. A single introductory sentence may be used to provide supporting background information for the purpose statement(s). The statement of the purpose(s) should begin with the following words, “The purpose of the critiqued article was...” This section should be short (2-5 sentences in length).

Methods

In this section, identify major methodological points from the critiqued article. These may include participant information, equipment and testing procedures, research design, or statistical analysis. Space is limited, so present only what is most relevant to the article critique. An original table (see Table Requirements) may help to convey important or supporting information succinctly.

Results & Discussion

Synthesize and/or summarize major points from the results and discussion sections in the critiqued article. Again, space is limited, so choose the most relevant data and information to present. A graphic may be used in this section of the Research Critique abstract. An original table (see Table Requirements) may help to convey this information succinctly.

Critique

In this section, provide your critical thoughts on the article. Focus points on the pros/cons of methods, results, and discussion. In addition, provide insights and suggestions for improvement, future research directions, or perhaps practical applications for the results presented. An original table (see Table Requirements) may help to convey this information succinctly.

References

Provide the appropriate citation information for the critiqued article in accordance with current APA formatting guidelines.

TABLE REQUIREMENTS

One original table must be created by the student author and used within the abstract. The table can be used anywhere within the abstract (see recommendations above) to convey important information efficiently. The table should be placed within the section and underneath the content from which citation was made. The table must be created within the abstract and fully editable (e.g. no scanned tables are allowed).

Label the table as “Table 1.” A full-sentence, descriptive caption should accompany the table. Lastly, the table must be cited within the text of the abstract, i.e. (see Table 1). Refer to the Sample Research Critique abstract for clarification.