

Summer Reading Assignment
Journal Critiques

A critique is a short paper (2-3 pages typed) about a journal article that you have read. For this assignment, you are required to complete one critique for each of the included journal articles; “*What You Expect Is What You Get*” by Rosenthal and Jacobson, “*Thanks for the Memories*” by Loftus, and “*Who’s Crazy Here, Anyway?*” by Rosenhan. Although we will not be discussing these articles at the beginning of the year, we will refer to them during the course of the year.

Your critique must include the following components:

1. Summary of 3-5 main points of article paired with one to two examples or pieces of data including any results and/or new information presented
2. Analysis of the science behind the article including methodology (if the methodology is poor, discuss how to make it better)
3. Discuss your personal response or two new things you learned or think are most interesting
4. What is the importance or application of this article to the field of psychology (make conceptual ties to previous learning or the field in general)

Expectations:

Summary of 3-5 main points of article including any results and/or new information presented: A critique begins with a summary of what the author presented and then looks at that information critically. To summarize the article, you should first read the whole thing. Then think about it. What are the author’s main points? How does s/he back them up; that is, what evidence does the author cite to support them? How could you make the same argument in your own words? At this point you should refer back to the article to make sure you’ve summarized the author’s ideas correctly and that you’ve clearly identified the source of each idea (whether it’s a direct quote or not). Also, make sure you note any results presented. Make sure you are detailed enough that the critique is clear and touches on the major points (also proves that you read the entire article!)

Analysis of the science behind the article including methodology: In looking at the method of research, evaluate whether or not the research was conducted as an experiment using the scientific method (design or application of methodology which could include original hypothesis, collecting data, conclusions made, sample size, population, experimental pitfalls, or ethical issues). Are there any issues with the design or implementation of the research, such as not enough participants in the study to be accurate, or any ethical issues raised by the research? Does the argument hold together? Were the methods used to gather evidence appropriate for the author’s purposes? Does the evidence cited really lead to the conclusion the author reached? Is the article based in psychological science? Do you know of other evidence that might be used to make a counter-argument? Is the evidence or the conclusions still valid? Do the results that are discussed in the article match the original basis for the research?

Discuss your personal response or two new things you learned or think are most interesting: This is an opportunity to discuss your personal reaction to the research. Your personal reaction can include your opinion on the piece, any emotional reaction you may have had, or you can concentrate on explaining things that you may not have known or found interesting.

Importance or application to psychology as a discipline or field: Explain why this research is important to the field or discipline of psychology or to everyday life. You can link this to information/issues in psychology that you are already familiar with.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at nniland@nniland.com. Feel free to e-mail for answers to your questions. Also, the assignment can be accessed from the Conard website or my web site at <http://www.nniland.com>

Your grade on this formal project will be based on how well you covered the criteria explained above. This project must be typed and is worth 80 points. The project will be **DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**. Please refer to the rubric for grading specifics.

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RUBRIC: AP PSYCHOLOGY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

_____ / 80

Requirements	[24 points]	Excellent	Good	Average	Weak	Poor	None
<i>What You Get is What You Get – Rosenthal and Jacobson</i>							
Each critique will...							
...provide a detailed, relevant, consistent summary.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the science presented in the article.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...provide a personal response or new information learned.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the importance to the field of .psychology		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0

Requirements	[24 points]	Excellent	Good	Average	Weak	Poor	None
<i>Thanks for the Memories - Loftus</i>							
Each critique will...							
...provide a detailed, relevant, consistent summary.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the science presented in the article.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...provide a personal response or new information learned.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the importance to the field of .psychology		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0

Requirements	[24 points]	Excellent	Good	Average	Weak	Poor	None
<i>Who’s Crazy Here, Anyway? - Rosenhan</i>							
Each critique will...							
...provide a detailed, relevant, consistent summary.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the science presented in the article.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...provide a personal response or new information learned.		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0
...analyze the importance to the field of .psychology		6	5.5	4.5	3	2	0

Requirements	[8 points]	Excellent	Good	Average	Weak	Poor	None
Each critique will...							
...adhere to accepted structure and mechanics.		8	7	6	4.5	3	0