

## RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY AND CRITIQUE

### REDESIGNED FROM SYLLABUS

Much can be learned about how to do your own research by critically evaluating the research efforts of others. To this end you will select a published example of communication research and tell me what you think of it. Your reports are to be typed, with normal margins, and will follow the APA 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Style Manual.

As you prepare your literature review for Communication Theory you will read several articles. Initially you will be judging the appropriateness of each article for your original research project. As you locate recent articles that address your topic, however, it will be necessary for you to comprehend how the researchers arrived at their conclusions.

This assignment will provide opportunities for you to demonstrate that you understand research methods and conclusions. You will summarize one (1) communication science quantitative primary research article of your choice and critique the questions, methods, results, and conclusions. The summary (with critique) must be typed and answer each of the following questions (in order):

1. *What is the article about?* (3-4 sentences at most).
2. *What theory or model guides the research?*
3. *What are the research questions and/or research hypotheses?* How many of each?
4. *What are the independent and dependent variables?* Do the authors provide *conceptual* and *operational* definitions of each (*give examples*)? Is there strong *conceptual fit*?
5. *Who are the research participants* (if applicable) or what is the *unit of analysis*? *Are they (is it) the appropriate population to study?*
6. What is the *research design or primary method*? *Is it appropriate to the questions asked?* Are there any apparent *weaknesses*? Are there particular *strengths*?
7. What are the major *strengths* and *weaknesses* in terms of *internal* validity?
8. What are the major *strengths* and *weaknesses* in terms of *external* validity?
9. *What do we know now that we didn't know before?* What is the "take home" message?
10. *What is your evaluation of this article?* Thumbs up? Thumbs down? Or maybe you think the author(s) had no opposable thumbs? *Why? Provide a detailed critique of the article.*

PLEASE NOTE: Each student is required to submit one research summary but ***I must approve it in advance*** and it ***must be different than that of any other student taking the cohort. It should go without saying, but this assignment must be the ORIGINAL work of the student who is submitting it for a grade.***