Understanding Research Discussion

Week 1 Deadlines

- A completed Culture and Behavior Discussion must be submitted in the Dropbox by *11:59pm Friday*.
- Post your discussion in the forum by *11:59pm Friday*.
- Post a response to one other person's discussion (above your post) by *11:59pm Sunday*

Dropbox Submission Requirements

- Complete the Cross-Cultural Psychology Tutorial before completing this discussion.
- Rich Text Format (RTF), Word (DOC or DOCX), or Portable Document File (PDF)
- Minimum of 500 words (not including citations or instructions).
- Must include 2-3 sources (textbook should be 1 source + 2 others) and use APA style citations.

Instructions

Now that you have learned about the scientific method, its goals, and how research is conducted you are expected to apply what you've learned, analyze a report on a published study, and discuss it with your classmates. Whichever article you choose it must be focused on psychological research; do not just pick an article you find interesting – be sure that it has information about a published psychological study.

Find a Study

Fortunately with the Internet there are endless places to find psychological articles so you are not limited to finding them in one specific place. You can read printed articles from a newspaper or magazines; you can read online from periodical websites or blogs. Here are some links to online sources that you can use to find a psychological study of interest:

- Slate.com
- Pacific Standard
- Time Magazine
- Scientific American Mind

Or check out my bookmarks for psychology news at https://delicious.com/hokapelli.

There is also the old fashioned option, walking into the ARC Library which has subscriptions to many magazines that would also be an interesting source of information for this discussion. Here are a couple of my favorites:

- Psychology Today
- Scientific American Mind

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Remember that you are not limited to using these sources but they are good places to start. Also be sure that the article you read presents some research study for you to analyze; DO NOT just pick an interesting article.

Dropbox Submission - Analyze the Study

Once you find an article that is interesting now you are expected to summarize the article by answering the following questions and uploading your analysis into the Dropbox and post your results in the Discussion. Keep in mind that the source of your study may not have enough details about the study for you to analyze it; if that's the case then you'll also need to dig a little more to find the details you'll need about the who, what, and how it was studied. Here are the questions you'll need to answer in your Dropbox submission:

1. What is the article about? *Your summary of the article should clearly explain the article you read.*

2. How did the researcher conduct his/her research? *Identify the research methods, including a description of who was studied and the methods that were used. You may have to click on their study links to find this information.*

3. What were the results of the study? *Summarize the results, identifying if they are causal, descriptive, or correlational.*

4. Do you think there are any limitations of the study? *Identify at least one limitation, relating to the method that was used or the sample that was studied.*

5. Are the results reliable? *You'll have to do a search to find out if the results are supported by other studies or not (and of course be sure to cite that source and look for similarities or differences in how the research was done).*

6. Is this study valuable? Do you have any lingering questions you would need answered? *This question is about how useful you found this study. Be sure to explain your answer.*

Discussion Post – Summarize the Article

Although I am interested in your ability to accurately describe the research you are reporting on, I am mostly interested in your ability to critically evaluate and analyze psychological research, applying what you've learned about research designs, considerations, and limitations. Here are some questions you should be sure to clearly address in your initial post, in no particular order:

- *Did I summarize the study, including the who, what, and how?*

- *Did I clearly explain how the article relates to the concepts and/or theories from this class?*

- *Why did I select this article and how are its findings useful?*

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Discussion Response – Discuss and Analyze

At a minimum you are expected to respond to one other person's post and they research. Please read the post of the person above you so that I can ensure each person has at least one response to their posting.

When replying to another student's analysis you will need to read their summary as well as the original article that they are summarizing. Consider the following questions to demonstrate your skills as a critical thinker:

- *Do I agree with the student's analysis? Why or why not?*

- *Are the results of this study reliable?*

- *Is there any inherent bias in the article or student's analysis?*

APA Format

Don't forget that you expected to submit original work, which means that no more than 10% of the discussion should be quoted (or copied) material. In addition you are expected to use APA style in-text citations as well as provide an APA Reference Page at the end. Information about APA format and plagiarism are posted in the Online Orientation and in the Weekly Schedule.

Tips to Maximize Points

Apply concepts and theories. Anytime you are completing a discussion you will be scored on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts you've learned as they relate to the topics you are discussing, as well as your critical thinking skills. You are not expected to apply all of the concepts from the lesson but you will be scored on how well you explain the ones that you do choose to discuss.

Stay actively engaged. You should be sure to pick topics that you find interesting because you will feel compelled to engage in the discussion. If you are regularly participating in the process you will be creating opportunities to earn points by applying the concepts and theories you are learning about. There is no formula for how many times you have to post, however you are expected to post your original post as well as at least one response to a classmate. Also as a general rule, if a person responds to your post at a reasonable time before the deadline I would expect that you read and respond to their response when appropriate; if I respond with suggestions or questions it is strongly recommended that you reply to my response.

Pay attention to discussion deadlines. You have 24 hours to post a discussion for late credit and after the discussion closes there are no points for late posts in the discussion forum.

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Other Helpful Tips

To further help you maximize the value of these discussions:.

1. **DO** *participate in discussions that interest you and compel you to come back to them.*

    DON'T *post one time to a discussion.*

2. **DO** *make sure that your analysis/discussion is thoughtful and clearly written, using complete sentences (do not use texting language).*

    DON'T *post make statements like "I agree" or "That's interesting" without explaining why.*

3. **DO** *provide a clear connection between the articles and the concept and/or theories.*

    DON'T *repeat facts or figures from the lessons that are not relevant to the article.*

4. **DO** start a discussion thread of a unique article.

    DON'T post an analysis of an article that has already been posted for discussion.

Penalties

Discussions will be penalized as follows:

- Did not use APA citations = no credit

- Cannot open submission in the Dropbox = no credit

- Submission is less than 500 words (citations and instructions not included) = no credit

- Plagiarism = no credit and reported to the Dean

- More than 20% quoted information = no credit

- Did not use APA in-text or full citations = -5 points

- No submission in the Dropbox = -5 points

- Late submission in the Dropbox = -3 points

- Exceeds the 10% quotation maximum = -1 point per percentage, up to 20%.