

Pre-course assignment

Review of one or two articles (to be selected...)

1. Skim the articles without taking notes

- Read the abstracts. The abstracts will tell you the major findings of the article and why they matter.
- Read first for the “big picture.”
- Note any terms or techniques you need to define.
- Jot down any questions or parts you don’t understand.
- If you are unfamiliar with any of the key concepts in the articles, look them up in a textbook.

2. Re-read the articles more carefully

- Carefully examine the graphs, tables, and diagrams.
- Ask yourself questions about the study, such as:
 - a. What is the purpose of the study? What questions were asked?
 - b. How did the study address these questions?
 - c. What assumptions did the author make?
 - d. What were the major findings?
 - e. What surprised you or struck you as interesting?
 - f. What questions are still unanswered?

3. Write a summary (300 words)

4. Write critique (300 words)

- Positive aspects?
- Limitations:
 - a. Is the relevant literature cited?
 - b. Is there sufficient data to support the author’s generalizations?
 - c. What questions remain unanswered?