

Assignment #1: Critical Analysis of Research

Assignment

This assignment will require you to analyze, critique, and review three primary research articles published within the last 5 years (i.e., between January 2015 and October 2020), on a specific area of study covered in this course. You will be required to analyze and critique these articles and the research they provide on the specific topic you have selected. You will be required to give a brief overview of the study and findings in each paper, and explain how these three papers together contribute to the topic area you are focusing on. Your paper should include an analysis on the impact of the research in each paper (e.g., is this providing new information, is information that was previously examined in a different way being shared in a new way, is perhaps the information not novel at all, etc.).

Writing a good critical analysis and review requires that you understand the material, and that you know how to analyze and evaluate that material using appropriate criteria. You will need to make a commentary on the structure, methods, results/conclusions, and logic that each paper incorporates. You will also need to show how these 3 articles together contribute to advancing knowledge in this particular area, in which case, you must draw your own thoughts and conclusions about the benefit of this work. Ensure that you have highlighted strengths or limitations of each paper; in the case of limitations, you should also ensure that your proposed solution is in fact realistic.

Formulate a thesis based on your overall evaluation of all three papers. Avoid presenting your points in a laundry-list style, and instead, focus on synthesizing the information as much as possible.

Format

Overall, your paper should be approximately 1000 - 1250 words in length (not including a title page, or reference page). You must use APA formatting, size 12pt Times New Roman Font, and 1 inch margins. There is a 5% per day late penalty, up to a maximum of 7 days. **Please note, no abstract is required for this assignment, though you do need to include an introduction to start your paper, and a conclusion to end your paper.**

Rubric

Paper 1 / 2 / 3 (5/section = 20/section; 60 marks total)

- Structure
- Methods
- Results/conclusions
- Logic

Overall Synthesis

- Critical analysis and review (10)
- Evidence of novel thought (10)
- Clarity and Consistency of thesis argument throughout (10)

Formatting

- APA style and referencing (10)