

Truth in the Media Report

Overview

The media often misreports or misrepresents the findings of scientific papers. In this assignment you will compare and contrast the media report of a study with the actual peer-reviewed journal article of that same study. Your final paper will be ~3-4 pages double-spaced.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate psychology information literacy, including their ability to do the following:
 - identify and navigate psychology databases
 - summarize general ideas and conclusions from psychological sources
 - identify what kinds of additional information beyond personal experience are acceptable in developing scientific arguments
- Strengthen writing and critical thinking skills through their application to specific course content

Detailed Instructions

Assignment #1: Media Article and Scientific Article

1. **Choose a media article** from the two below. These media articles discuss the findings of a psychological study.
 - a. [Intermittent Fasting Leads to Earlier Death?](#)
 - b. [Internet Use in Class Leads to Poorer Test Scores](#)
2. Provide an **APA formatted reference** for the media/popular press article that you chose.
3. **Find the scholarly article** that the media report is reviewing. Look for a hyperlink in the media article or information that will help you find the original scientific article. In order to get access to it for *free* (you shouldn't have to pay anything) go to the [Campbell Library website](#) and do a search for the scientific article title.
4. Provide an APA formatted reference for the scholarly article.
5. **Submit in Canvas** your APA reference for the media report and corresponding scientific article and the pdf of the scientific article for approval prior to writing your report.

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Assignment #2. Full Report

See the template google doc in this week's module that you can use for your paper.

1. **Summarize the media report.** How was the study conducted (e.g. sample, correlation or experimental, how were variables measured? -- just based on info in the media report) and what did they find? Make sure to put everything into your own words and do not copy and paste from the article.
2. **Summarize the scholarly article.** What was the aim or point of the study? How was the study conducted (e.g. sample, correlation or experimental, how were variables measured?) and what did they find? Make sure to put everything into your own words and do not copy and paste from the article. You should really focus on the methods/discussion portions of the paper.
3. **Evaluate the media report** by comparing and contrasting the media report to the scientific article that it was summarizing. Make sure to include your in-text citations. Questions to consider:
 - a. Did the media article make leaps to make the scientific findings more “attractive” and “attention-grabbing”? If so, how? Did they make a causal claim when it was really just a correlation study?
 - b. Did the media accurately report the findings of the study? Why or Why not?
 - c. Were any numbers presented in the media report accurate and actually found in the scientific article?
 - d. Did they leave out important details that would change the accuracy of the media report? If so, explain.
4. **Submission.**
 - a. *Paper Formatting & Submission*
 - i. Should be written in paper format - using complete sentences in paragraphs.
 - ii. No title page is needed.
 - iii. Use 11 or 12-point font and double-space. Use 1” margins.
 - iv. Proofread your paper for any grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors.
 - b. *APA citations and references*
 - i. When discussing the media report and scholarly article make sure to use APA in-text citations. [See Purdue Owl for examples.](#)
 - ii. Include a references page that lists the APA formatted reference for your media report (with direct hyperlink) and the scholarly journal article.
 - c. *Submitting your paper.* Submit your paper (pdf or word doc) to Canvas by the due date.
 - d. **Please note:** I will give you feedback on your submission and allow a revision and resubmit for a higher grade.

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Grading Rubrics

Truth in the Media Assignment #1				
Criteria	Beginning	Approaching	Meeting	Exceeding
Article Selection	Student does not choose an article from the list	Student chooses a media article from the list but does not find the correct scholarly article and/or is lacking APA formatted references)	Student chooses and article from the list, finds the correct scholarly article but fails to either attach the pdf of the article and/or has errors in the APA formatted references	Student chooses and article from the list, attaches the correct scholarly article, and provides the correct APA formatted references for each
Truth in the Media Assignment #2				
Summary	Student does not accurately summarize the articles, or may contain plagiarism and lack of in-text citations	Student attempts to summarize both articles; missing several important points; issues with APA formatting or writing	Student accurately summarizes both articles; may be missing some important points	Student expertly summarizes both articles and includes all relevant information with correct in-text APA citations and no plagiarism
Evaluation	Student does not accurately compare/contrast the two articles; may contain plagiarism	Student attempts to compares/contrasts both articles; missing several important points; APA in-text citation issues	Student accurately compares/contrasts both articles; may be missing some important points; contains APA in-text citations	Student expertly compares/contrasts both articles and includes all relevant information and correct APA in-text citations
Overall Writing and APA formatting & citations	Many writing errors that impede understanding; lacks APA intext citations and references	Some writing errors that impede understanding; lacks APA intext citations and references and/or has many errors	Occasional writing errors that are minor and do not impede understanding; includes APA intext citations and references with minor errors	No writing errors – paper is easy to read, and well organized, includes accurate APA intext citations and references

*If a section is missing then it will receive a 0.