

DSL 200 Scientific News Journals

You will be responsible for writing **three** journals throughout the duration of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped.

The assignment

For each project, you will be given a news story and a scientific journal article that goes with it, posted to Canvas by the instructor. Each of these journal articles will have been published in a reputable online magazine, newspaper, or journal. The news story may or may not be.

You will then write a short essay, 1-2 pages in length, detailing the parts of the scientific method discussed in your article and comparing that information to what was reported in the news story. Each entry will be written in a logical and professional manner using the APA template attached to the post.

The entire entry must be written IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Direct quotes of the articles are not allowed. However, when you summarize or paraphrase something from one of the articles you will need to provide an in-text APA reference. The guide to APA referencing is attached to this post.

The essay must be written entirely in third person. DO NOT USE FIRST OR SECOND PERSON. This means you cannot use the words “I”, “we”, or “you”.

What is turned in to the instructor?

For each week that a journal assignment is due, you will submit your journal entry via Canvas by its due date.

Entry Content

You will be graded on the following content that combines information you obtain from both the news story and the scientific article:

Introduction (1 paragraph)

This section identify which of the two articles was the scientific study and the subject of the scientific study. You will also identify the **problem or observation** that spurred the research. DO NOT LIST THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY ITSELF HERE. You will identify the **hypothesis** the scientists were testing. Remember that a hypothesis is a testable educated guess. Thus, it is not appropriate to pose a question here. However, while reading your articles, it can be helpful to ask yourself what explanation scientists tried to use to explain their initial observation. You will then transition into the body of the journal.

Body (~1 paragraph each)

Here, you will identify the **test or experiment** that was performed to address the hypothesis. You should be detailed here. It may be helpful to pull from other sources, if you do not fully understand how the experiment was conducted. After detailing how the experiment was done you will transition into a discussion of the results.

In this section of your entry you will identify the experimental **results** that the scientists obtained. What did the scientists find after doing their experiment? Again, you can be detailed here. After detailing the results, you will transition into the conclusion sections.

The last paragraph of the body should explain the **conclusion** of the study. You should address whether the hypothesis was supported or rejected, and how the results led to that finding. Also provide a possible new avenue of research the scientists might pursue based on what was discovered in this study.

Evaluation (1 paragraph)

Here you will signal the end of your entry. In this section you will identify the new study about the scientific study and discuss whether or not the news story was a representative reporting of the scientific study. Did the news change anything or leave out something important from the scientific study? Summarize the important content from your entry, then you will end with a definitive final statement.

Constructing your journal entry

In addition to the criteria above, you will be graded on the quality of your writing; please write with proper grammar, punctuation, and style. The essay will be graded using the Dialogues of Learning Written Communication Rubric.

All sources (including the original 2 articles) should be properly documented. You must include an **APA style reference page**. See Canvas on detailing APA style. Your TurnItIn score should be below 25 for this assignment. Any journals with a score above 25 will automatically receive a 0. If this happens, a student may request to withdraw their submission, revise it, and turn it back in with a late penalty.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to report instances of academic dishonesty, such as large matches with another student, no matter the initial or final TurnItIn score.