

Psychology 100: Extra Credit

Psychology is everywhere. The purpose of these assignments is to give you the opportunity to critically evaluate psychological research or claims that you come across in the real world, and share what you have learned with your peers.

Psychology in the News

For this assignment, you will critically evaluate the accuracy of information presented in the media. First, find one article in the popular press that discusses a recently published psychology study. Popular press includes newspapers, magazines, news-based internet sites, podcasts and news videos – basically anything that is intended for a general audience. Then, find and read the original journal article discussed in the popular press piece.

Identify the main claim the popular press piece is making, and the evidence they provide for the claim. Is that claim consistent with the research presented in the journal? Write a 1-2 page paper evaluating the treatment of the research in the popular press piece.

Suggestions for Write-Up: Briefly summarize the popular press article. Then briefly summarize the original journal article (what was the research question, what methods were used to test the question, what were the results, and what did the researchers conclude). Then discuss how the popular press author(s) treated the research. Here are some issues you might want to consider: Did they present the findings in an unbiased way? Did they leave out any critical findings or limitations of the study? Does the study provide ENOUGH evidence for the claim that is being made in the popular press?

Each week we will set aside time to discuss the topics you've chosen. You will have 3 minutes to briefly present your topic to the class. Then we will have a few minutes for questions and to discuss the topic. I will help lead the discussion.

Write-ups are due the day before the presentations. You may turn in your write-ups in class, or email them to me by 8PM on the day they are due. Along with your write-up, please include a copy of (or link to) the materials you used.

Dates:

	Write-Up Due	Presentation Date
Extra Credit 1	Thursday, June 19	Friday, June 20
Extra Credit 2	Thursday, June 26	Friday, June 27
Extra Credit 3	Wednesday, July 2	Thursday, July 3

Grades

Each assignment is worth up to 1% point (added to your final grade). You may choose to do an assignment for any or all of the three dates. You may only submit one assignment per date. You may only submit one assignment on a given topic. For each assignment you will receive a grade of 0 or 1. If the assignment is complete and correct, then you will receive 1%. If the assignment is not completed correctly, or is missing a component, you will not receive credit. Components include 2 sources, a write-up, and a brief in-class presentation.

Keep in Mind:

- For the assignment to be done correctly, you must EVALUATE the popular press article or claim. It is not enough to simply summarize what you have read, you must demonstrate that you have thought about how the journal article supports (or does not support) the research/claim you are evaluating.
- I encourage you to complete more than one extra credit assignment. However, please do not submit more than one assignment on a given topic. In addition, do not submit an assignment on a topic that was presented in a previous week. If you're not sure how close something is to a previous presentation, just ask!
- The presentations will be informal. You do not need to prepare slides or other formal material. The purpose is for you to inform your peers of the topic you have learned about. Some topics may also lead to further class discussion.
- If you need help picking a topic or finding a journal article, please ask me!!

*****The extra credit assignments are OPTIONAL. However, ALL students are responsible for the material presented during our discussions. In addition, all students are encouraged to participate in the discussions. *****