

Experimental Psychology (PSYC 465)  
Research Article Summary Guidelines  
Arlo Clark-Foos

Complete the following information for each journal article you read. Complete the information for each section of the article before reading the next section; it will help you understand the sections that follow.

### REFERENCE

Start by typing the complete reference – in APA style – for this study.

### INTRODUCTION

In 3-4 sentences or using bullets, summarize the general findings from each previous study discussed in the introduction. When appropriate, identify the participants, the measures and what was done (describe generally) in each of these previous studies. If later studies in the introduction have similar procedures and findings just say that.

Summarize, in your own words, the hypotheses being tested in the research study you are reading. What were the authors attempting to show? What are the IVs (if a causal study) and DVs of this study?

### METHOD

#### Participants

Who were the participants – describe appropriate characteristics. For example, it may not be important to the study to know where participants are from – skip this information if this is the case.

#### Measures

What was/were the dependent variable(s)? What tests, scales or instruments were used to operationally define each DV?

#### Procedure

Describe, in your own words, what was done to collect data. You should be able to do this in a just a few sentences. Describe any attempts made to control confounds or extraneous variables.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Don't use numbers here but summarize in words what the authors found. What were the major results? Did they find support for their hypotheses? How do the results relate to the other studies cited in the introduction? How did the researchers interpret the results; what are their overall conclusions? Did they offer any big "whoops" statements – something that went wrong that makes them (or you) hesitate with their conclusions? Do they offer suggestions for future research? Do you have any other interpretations or suggestions for future research?

### CONCLUSIONS

In 2-3 sentences, in your own words, what did this study tell you? What were the important conclusions that you might use later? Add anything else that you think is important to know about this research.

### APPLICATION

In a final few sentences, describe if and how you will use this study in your proposal. Be as specific as you can at this point.