

## Experimental study Précis and Critical Review

In the spring, as part of IB Psychology, you will conduct an investigation of a previously published research report in psychology. This investigation will involve the analysis of the chosen study and a recreation of the experiment conducted in that study.

As part of our preparation for completing this investigation in the spring, you will choose, describe, analyze and evaluate a previously published study during the fall semester. **UNLIKE THE SPRING PAPER, THERE IS NOT REPLICATION OF THE EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED IN THE STUDY,** you will simply be asked to describe, analyze and evaluate the study you choose.

### Structure

**Precis** - In this section of the paper you will analyze the major components of the study using the skills described in Jordan and Zanna (the questions at the end of each section of Jordan and Zanna are a helpful guide, but your précis should not simply be a series of answers to questions.) Your précis should be around 750 words.

Your précis should include the following paragraphs:

- \* An analysis of the introduction
- \* An analysis of the methods used in the study. In this section you should explicitly address the following at minimum (not necessarily in this order):
  - Constructs and operationalization
  - Relevant variables (the IV and DV) and how they were manipulated.
  - The research method used (Repeated measures, independent samples, matched pairs) Some studies will not fit neatly into one category.
  - How the participants were chosen (sampling)
  - The procedures used in the study
- \* A brief summary of the results
- \* An analysis of the discussion section of the research report (again focus on those areas highlighted by Jordan and Zanna)

**Evaluation** - After your précis you will evaluate the study. Your evaluation should focus on the how generalizable and credible the study is (using concepts discussed in class and summarized on Popov, p. 8). Your evaluation should also address any ethical concerns raised by the study. Your evaluation should be around 500 words.

Your evaluation should focus on the effectiveness of the methods used in the study and not on stylistic issues.

Critiquing professional research can be daunting for students. To assist you with this process, think about how Jordan and Zanna recommend approaching research studies. I have also included a link to an [article on critiquing quantitative research](#) that was originally prepared for nursing students, but has broad applicability to the social sciences as well.

### Format

Title page - Please include the following items on your title page:

- The title of your paper which includes the title, author and date of the original study
- Your name
- My name
- The name of the class
- The date of submission
- Word count (excluding works cited and title pages)

Citations and works cited page - Please support your observations, analysis and evaluation with specific quotations from the study itself. Quotations should be brief, to the point, enclosed in quotation marks and cited. You will be required to follow APA format for this paper. I will provide a handout prior to submission that outlines the major features of APA style.

### Choice of Study

The four studies available for you to choose are linked below. These studies are the only studies that will be accepted for this project (no exceptions).

- Bandura, Ross and Ross, 1960 - Transmission of Aggression Through Imitation of Aggressive Models
- Niesiobedzka, 2018 - An experimental study of the Bandwagon effect in conspicuous consumption
- Ekman & Friesen, 1971 - Constants Across Cultures in the Face and Emotion
- Gibson and Walk, 1960 - The Visual Cliff

### Grading

Grading will be based on a rubric provided in class.

### Due Dates

Choice of study (this is irreversible)	Monday, October 4
Précis and evaluation due	Friday, October 15