

## Student Worksheet: Analyzing a Journal Article

*Please read the assigned journal article and answer the following questions. Review the “Paraphrasing” module as needed to help you understand how to paraphrase to avoid plagiarism.*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Journal article title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 1. What is the purpose/hypothesis/aim/objective of the study?

**a. Write down the exact statement in which the authors describe what they were testing. (Hint: This information may be provided in the article as a purpose statement or as a hypothesis). Include quotation marks around the exact wording, and indicate page number(s).**

**b. Now describe the purpose of the study (as you understand it) in your own words.**

**c. What was the “gap” in the research that the authors were trying to fill by doing their study?**

**Step 2. What is/are the major finding(s) of the study?**

**a. Make some notes about the authors' major conclusions or findings as written in the article. Include quotation marks whenever you use their exact wording, and indicate page number(s).**

**b. Now write those conclusions (as you understand them) in your own words.**

**Step 3. How did the authors test their hypothesis?**

**a. Briefly summarize the main steps or measurements that the authors used in their methods. Try to explain in your own words as much as possible.**

**b. Do the authors suggest any problems or limitations with their methodology? Do you see any problems or limitations with their methodology?**

**c. How did the authors analyse their data? What test/s did they use?**

**Step 4. How reliable are the results?**

**a. Do the authors suggest any problems with the study that could lead to unreliable results?**

**Step 5. Based on your analysis, are the claims made in this journal article accurate?**

**a. Do the conclusions made (about the results) by the author make sense to you? Are the conclusions too broad or too narrow based on what was actually done in the study?**

**b. Based on the accuracy of the methodology and the reliability of the results as described in Steps 3 and 4, do you think the conclusions can be believed?**

**Step 6. What is the importance of this scientific work?**

**a. Write (in your own words) the significant contributions of the experimental work in this journal article as reported by the authors.**

**b. Re-read your notes and explain why you think this is**

- a strong or weak scientific article
- a strong or weak scientific study