

Sample Research Articles: Questions for Self-Study

As you read the four research articles assigned to you for this class, please provide thoughtful answers to the following questions for each article.

1. What is the purpose of the article? Is this purpose stated clearly?
2. What reasons do the author(s) give you to care about their research? Is this rationale convincing? Why or why not?
3. What theories or other, previous research relates closely to the subject of the article? Is the literature review clear? Is anything confusing about this review?
4. What methodologies are employed in the article?
5. What justifications do the author(s) provide for the methods they use? Are these justifications convincing? Why or why not?
6. What are the research questions formulated in, and answered by, the article? Are the questions clear? What about the questions make them clear?
7. What are the results relating to each research question?
8. What are the key points raised by the author(s) in the article conclusion?
9. Are the conclusions drawn by the author(s) justified by the results they present in the article?
10. Does the conclusion identify research directions that follow from the results highlighted in the article? If yes, what are these potential areas for further investigation? If no, what are the key applications or ideas you take away from the article?
11. What elements of this article would you most like to replicate in your own research writing? What elements did you appreciate the least?
12. To the best of your ability to evaluate research in the article's subject area, does it appear that this article makes a worthwhile contribution to the literature?

Praise where praise is due is good and appropriate, but your answers to these questions, especially to questions 9 through 12, should also include thoughtful critique as you see need. Constructive criticism is the foundation of advancement in the academic research community.