CRIJ 4321
Research Article Summary

Learning how to dissect a research article is a valuable skill. Following this outline will guide you through the method of gaining the most important information from professional journal articles. If you follow this outline in collecting information for your future academic papers (regardless of the class), you will find yourself writing more professionally and accurately, which will increase your grade. This is the outline format required for submitting your assigned Research Summaries. Please follow it carefully.

1 – **CITATION**: At the top of the page type the **citation** of the article per APA style…for example:

Smith, J. & Jones, D. (2008). The correlation between homicide and moon tides. *Journal of Mythical Criminology, 45,* 613-666.

2 - **CRITIQUE** Use the following outline (I, A, 1, a) with their subheadings in your summary. You may use bullet entries to list key points.

I. Questions: State the question the researchers are asking.
Look for the purpose of the research, and then state it as a question.

II. Design: How did the authors design their research?
What methodology / procedures were used to gather information?
Who were the research subjects / participants?
How many subjects were in the study?
How was the information collected and how was it measured?
How did the author(s) go about answering their question?

III. Results: How was the data analyzed? What statistics did they use?
Based on the statistics, what were the answers to the questions?
What did the authors find?

IV. Discussion: How did the authors interpret their findings (answer their questions)?
What were their conclusions?
How valid / accurate do you think their conclusions were? Why?
What limitations of the research restricted its usefulness?

V. Generalizations: In what ways might the results and conclusions of this article be used by criminal justice agencies or policy makers?

3 - **APPENDIX**: Attach a copy of the abstract from the first page of the article being summarized. (Hint: if the article does not have an abstract on the first page, it is not a peer-reviewed article.)

Adapted from Girden, E.R. (2001)
Evaluating research articles, 2nd Ed.
Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

The following are examples of professional journals in the criminal justice field
(This is not a comprehensive list; many more journals are published in criminal justice and the related social sciences that you may also use):

Child Maltreatment

Crime & Delinquency

Crime, Media, Culture

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice and Behavior

Criminal Justice Policy Review

Criminal Justice Review

European Journal of Criminology

Feminist Criminology

Homicide Studies

International Criminal Justice Review

International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology

Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice

Journal of Interpersonal Violence

Journal of Research in Crime and delinquency

Police Quarterly

The Prison Journal

Probation Journal

Punishment & Society

Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment

Theoretical Criminology

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

Violence Against Women

Youth Justice