# JAR Marking Criteria & Guidelines

## Assessment II: Individual Journal Article Review (25%)

This assignment is designed to (a) deepen your understanding of the academic theory and (b) to develop your ability to critically evaluate the theory. The final output will be in the form of an executive summary and critical analysis. The JAR template distributed in class is designed to be used when assessing **any** academic journal and can be used as a resource in which to refer to from time to time. The following are some guidelines and instructions to assist you in the completion of this assessment.

## Structure

**1. Introduction** (Max 100 words)

Provide a short summary of the article chosen and briefly outline two reasons for your choice of article.

**2. Main Body** (Max 800 words)

Critically review the selected article. In doing so, it may be necessary to refer to other academic contributors on the topic under review. For example, you can use some of the material covered in class (e.g. PowerPoint notes, case studies etc) and/or any additional articles (maximum of 2 articles in total) discussed or covered on the course outline. Ideally, focus on the chosen article and evaluate it in the context of the material covered in class. Please note that critical evaluation involves highlighting both the positive and negative aspects of the article. In addition, evaluate the methodology employed in your chosen article (i.e. qualitative, quantitative, review, sampling etc). In your evaluation, state whether you agree/disagree with the arguments as detailed in the paper by identifying clearly your reasons why, or why not. For example, if you choose to examine 'Managerial Efficiency and Contribution in Professional Football' using 'Production Frontier Approach' you may argue that this approach does not consider other issues which may impact on managerial performance?

3. **Personal Reflection** (Max 300 words)

Write a short personal reflection of your experience in conducting this assessment. This may incorporate your likes/dislikes and your overall view on conducting such an assessment.

4. **Conclusion & Recommendations** (Max 300 words)

5. **Bibliography** (Not included in word count)

Cite all references used in your review. Reviews **must be appropriately referenced** using the American Psychological Association (APA) style of referencing, which is a derivative of the Harvard referencing system. **ONLY** sources that have actually been **cited in the essay** should be included in the reference list.

The final output will be a maximum of 1,500 words in length, using 1.5 line spacing and font size 12. The review should be stapled together (no binding required) on plain white paper. Each review should be typed, well laid out using appropriate headings/subheadings. Essay submissions must include the student's name and student number, word count, course/subject name and the JAR title on the front page. All submissions must be accompanied by a signed Assignment Cover Sheet, which is available to download on Brightspace. More specific details, guidelines and marking schemes are provided on Brightspace.

## Some useful criteria that can be used for evaluating an Academic Journal Article and its application to practice?

The following criteria are useful. However, not all of the criteria will be relevant for evaluating all articles:

- The timeliness of the article and the degree to which the article makes an original contribution
- The logic of the view put forward, particularly in relation to your own discipline and sporting experience
- The methodology employed. Is the methodology appropriate and, is the methodological approach explained clearly? Does the methodological approach have any weaknesses?

- Is the study sufficiently comprehensive and thorough?
- Is anything important omitted in the research?
- Are the findings presented and described clearly and fully?
- Do the findings seem credible and realistic?
- The articles value compared to that of other articles on the topic