Hints for Answering Research Article Summary Questions

When reading research articles it might help to know summarizing articles is a skill worth developing.

While these articles are intended for student learning, during actual research students often help researchers with their workload. As you may have noticed from reading the articles, it takes time to read articles. Reading a summary of an article, that was reviewed and summarized by a skilled student, helps researchers focus only on articles that are important to their research. Therefore, answering the summary response questions completely is very important in the research process.

The researcher should be able to look at a student's article summary and quickly see:
1. What did researchers want to find out?
2. How was the data collected? Who were the subjects? How many? What kind? How was data collected (what kind of tests or other measurement was used?).
3. What was learned (the results)?
4. What did the student think about the article? This response helps a student formulate what this research may mean to them. In this case, as students are learning and some are in the teaching profession, the question to answer is how might the results influence you?

A person reading the article summary response that you are submit should be able to tell what the article was about, who participated, how they participated, the results of the research, and a clear appraisal of the your opinion about the article.

While great detail is not expected, sufficient detail requires a thorough reading of the article. As a reminder, the responses are graded on an "Accepted/Not-Accepted" basis. If an article is not-accepted, the article can be re-accomplished and submitted in the EPY303 or EPY451 Resubmit Summary areas in OURRS; however, the resubmitted summaries must be submitted by the deadline.

Specific hints that will help you create an acceptable summary follow:

1. Pay particular attention to the "Purpose" or "Present Study" areas of articles. Often a clear hypothesis/prediction can be found here. If you are having difficulty it is sometimes helpful to find the Method Section and go back one paragraph at a time until you see the Purpose and/or prediction statement. Furthermore, in the discussion section the prediction is often restated (e.g. “as we predicted” or something similar).

2. When looking for information about the subject, measurement tools, and how they were used, the "Method" section is a good place to look. In particular, in the Method area you will usually find "Participants", "Measures", "Procedures", or some variation of these. In these areas you will, most likely, find the number and types of subjects used, the types (methods) of tests that were used to measure, and how those tests (or measurement tools) were used to collect data (procedures). When you "explain
the study/experiment in your own words", someone who reads your explanation should be able to get a general idea about the study without reading the article.

3. When looking for the results, the "Results" area is where you will find them. However, don't overlook the "Discussion" area when looking for results. Often when they (the results) are being discussed they are spelled out in easy to understand terminology.

4. While quoting is sometimes a good thing, your understanding of the article is what we are interested in. Please use your own words when answering the questions.

Allow at least a week before becoming concerned that a summary has not been graded. If you are still concerned, please email epvrr@unlv.nevada.edu.

WARNING: YOU MUST OBTAIN ALL RESEARCH CREDITS BY THE DEADLINE OR YOUR FINAL CLASS GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY 10%.