

Assignment #2: Find and read a report of an experiment
Due Date: September 11, 2008

Goals for this assignment:

- 1) Learn how to use library databases to find previous research on a given topic.**
- 2) Learn how to “read” a primary-source.**

For this assignment you must:

1) use PsychInfo, PubMed, or Linguistics & Language Behavior Abstracts (all are available through the KU library system) to find a peer-reviewed research article that reports the results of at least one experiment in a scientific journal related to any of the following (broadly defined) topics that Cognitive Science examines: vision, language, consciousness, emotions, thinking, reasoning, problem solving, categorization, action (motor movements). You *may not* use an article from a magazine like Psychology Today, a newspaper article, or an Internet posting as these are not peer-reviewed sources.

2) read the article and use it to answer the questions below. Your answers should be typed, with 1-inch margins all around, and 12 point font size. You are welcome (and encouraged) to submit your answer via e-mail instead of handing in a paper copy; electronic copies/attachments should be saved in RICH-TEXT-FORMAT only. Your full name and your KUID should appear in a header, or at the top of each page you submit.

Your paper should include a copy of the article you’re reporting on (either PDF, hard copy, or the URL), as well as a correctly formatted reference to the article at the top of your paper. The reference should take the following form:

Last name of Author(s) and their initials. (year the journal was published). Title of the article. Title of the Journal, Issue number of the journal, page numbers of the article.

Here is an example of how the reference should appear:

Vitevitch, M.S. & Stamer, M.K. (2006). The curious case of competition in Spanish speech production. *Language & Cognitive Processes*, 21, 760-770.

Please answer the following questions:

- a) What are the research questions?
- b) What did previous studies have to say about these research questions?
- c) Why is the present research important?
- d) Who were the participants in the study?
- e) Were the participants appropriate for the study?
- f) What are the dependent variables (i.e., what is measured)?
- g) Are the measures appropriate for addressing the research question(s)?
- h) What are the independent variables?
- i) Are the independent variables appropriate for addressing the research question(s)?
- j) What are the main results of the study?
- k) To what extent do the results answer the research question(s)?
- l) What conclusions do the researchers draw from the results?
- m) To what extent can the results be generalized beyond the context of the study?
- n) Do the conclusions have a broader importance? Why or why not?
- o) What ethical considerations are important to address? Are they all addressed in the article?