

Mini-reviews: ** Max. 2 pages double-spaced **

1. Intro/topic paragraph (1 point)

- What was the main research question
- Why is it important?

2. Methods summary (2 points)

- *Summarize* the approach taken
- What was unique about their techniques
- How does it get at the interesting question from part 1 above?

3. Results and critique (2 points)

- *Summarize* the key result(s)
- Connect it back to the original question
- Your opinion of the study

...style and grammar are also considered

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Common pitfalls

- Misunderstandings, errors with facts or concepts involved
- Writing too much
- Lack of coherence
- Weak critiques (unoriginal, trivial, incorrect, no explanation)

- Be sure you understand the study first... this might take several readings (e.g. first for concepts, then for detail)
- Distill the methods and results down to KEY POINTS only!
- Justify your critiques (good or bad) with arguments/evidence
- Take time to edit

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Other stuff

- Don't worry about stats/technical details
- Can follow Proceedings B formatting for citations in this course

Plagiarism

- Article on website
- Avoid the temptations
 - Cut and paste
 - Sending finished work to other people

Magazine article

The "Pitch to the Editor": **DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 25**

Pick one of the subject papers

1. Cover letter
2. Working title + "hook" paragraph
3. Point-form outline for **your final magazine article**

Final copy: 25 % of your grade, DUE NOVEMBER 17

- Max 4 pages single-spaced text including references
- + 1 as your creative title page = 5 pages total
- Need at least 4 other **primary** sources

Magazine article: Popular science writing

Flash

- Anecdote, shocker, hook

Understanding

- Explain the wider significance of the “Flash”
- Give the reader a road map of what is to come

Content

- Describe the science and put it in context
- Can include anecdotes, quotes, numbers

Kicker

- Last paragraph/sentence should wrap the story up in an aesthetically pleasing, amusing, interesting way
- Can use quotes, speculative questions, evocative phrases, or continue with a thread from the “Flash”

Pitch to the Editor: Due Oct. 25

Flash

- Anecdote, shocker, hook

WORKING TITLE + HOOK
PARAGRAPH

Understanding

- Explain the wider significance of the “Flash”
- Give the reader a road map of what is to come

POINT FORM OUTLINE

Content

- Describe the science and put it in context
- Can include anecdotes, quotes, numbers

COVER LETTER WITH
RESEARCH

Pitch to the Editor: Due Oct. 25

1. Choose your paper
2. Read it and start your background research
 - Need 4 other primary sources
3. Decide on an angle/theme
4. Develop your point form outline
5. Draft your hook paragraph + working title
6. Write the cover letter to the editor (me) last
 - Incorporate the best of your background research so far
 - Explain your angle/theme and argue why the magazine needs to cover your chosen study

Pitch to the Editor: Due Oct. 25

Primary sources = original scientific research papers

Need at least 4 others

- Starting point = references within your chosen paper
- Has anything new cited that paper since?
- Databases: Google Scholar, Web of Science
- Look for a review article on the subject matter (and the primary references therein)

Final magazine article

- Do not need to use formal citation style
- You can refer to the other papers in your article and have a list of "Further Readings" at the end