

**PREP Alternative Assignment:
Critical Reviews of Research Articles
Updated: Spring 2026**

INSTRUCTIONS

As an alternative to participating in research for course credit, there is the option of writing short critical reviews of journal articles. The reviews are graded on a pass or fail basis, and each critical review receives the same credit as participating in a 1.0 hour in-lab study. Students may choose to do critical reviews for all their credits, or for a portion of their credits (as well as participating in research).

Submit each critical review as a Word Document or PDF e-mail attachment to the PREP administrators (PREP@wlu.ca). You can submit reviews any time throughout the term. **The final deadline is the same as the deadline for participating in PREP studies (i.e., the last day of classes for the term).**

Students may not submit the same article review that was previously submitted by themselves or someone else. This behaviour is considered academic misconduct (i.e., self-plagiarism or plagiarism, respectively).

For each critical review, select one article from the following list, and then obtain a copy of that article via the WLU library system (OMNI at <https://library.wlu.ca>) or another search tool. **Note exception: PS262 students must select from perception articles posted on the PS262 MyLS page (instead of the list below) and submit their reviews in the PS262 dropbox.**

Each review should be a minimum of 1 page and maximum of 2 pages in length (typed, double spaced), with standard margins and font (12 pt), and should address the following points:

1. Indicate the article you are writing about using APA reference format for the authors, article title, journal title, etc. (see references below)
2. State the theoretical problem addressed in the article, or the hypotheses that were tested.
3. Provide a brief summary of the research design and procedure.
4. Briefly describe the main findings of the research, as they relate to the theoretical problem or hypotheses.
5. Summarize important points made in the discussion section of the article, including the key conclusions.
6. Provide your own evaluations and reactions to the research, including what you see as strengths and limitations of the research.

LIST OF JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Arnett, J. J., & Mitra, D. (2025). COVID-19 and Americans' mental health: A persistent crisis, especially for emerging adults 18 to 29. *Journal of Adult Development*, 32(4), 335–347. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10804-024-09502-w>
- Cheng, T., Stone, A., & Coplan, R. J. (2025). Using language to test developmental differences in attitudes toward solitude in adolescents and emerging adults. *Social Development (Oxford, England)*, 34(3). <https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.70010>
- Cherry, J., McCormack, T., & Graham, A. J. (2025). Measuring childhood mind wandering and its effects in the classroom. *Applied Cognitive Psychology* 39(5), e70128. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.70128>.
- Chun, J. S., Kakkar, H., & Kay, A. C. (2026). How watching sports shapes zero-sum thinking: Correlational, experimental, and longitudinal evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000520>
- Chung, Y. H., Brady, T. F., & Störmer, V. S. (2024). Meaningfulness and familiarity expand visual working memory capacity. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 33(5), 275-282. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09637214241262334>
- Davidai, S. (2025). Going at it alone: Zero-sum beliefs inhibit help-seeking. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 117. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2024.104714>
- Fang, X. (2026). Speech processing in noise and the ability to differentiate sounds by musicians and nonmusicians. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 88(1), 40. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-025-03209-0>
- Gordon, A. M., Luciani, M., & From, A. (2025). I love you but I hate your politics: The role of political dissimilarity in romantic relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 129(4), 692–713. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000467>
- Hughes, E. K., Emery, L. F., McGorray, E. L., Gardner, W. L., & Finkel, E. J. (2025). The delusion of the disappearing self? Attachment avoidance and the experience of externally invisible self-loss in romantic relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 128(5), 1142–1159. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000468>
- Huo, M., & Ning, B. (2026). Unveiling social–emotional excellence: A network perspective on social–emotional skills in children and adolescents. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 44(1), 83–98. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjdp.70008>
- Kazarovytska, F., Árnadóttir, K., D'Ottone, S., Halabi, S., Clarke, E., Sharma, S., Heidrich, V., & Imhoff, R. (2026). Do people across the world want to remember positive ingroup

histories? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000513>

Kitchens, M. B., & Meier, B. P. (2025). The fearful mind of artificial intelligence: fear and perceived existential threat of artificial intelligence as a function of its cognitive and emotional capabilities. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 166(4), 423–436.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2025.2503006>

Laird, R. D., & Zeringue, M. M. (2025). Predicting risky driving maneuvers and driving in risky conditions by adolescents. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 98, Article 101810. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2025.101810>

Lischetzke, T., Grommisch, G., Prestele, E., & Altstötter-Gleich, C. (2025). Are perfectionistic strivings beneficial or detrimental to well-being and achievement? Tests of procrastination and emotion regulation as moderators. *Journal of Personality*, 93(3), 614–632. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jopy.12955>

Love, S., Indrawan, Y., Clark, M., & Larue, G.S. (2025). The risks of road rage: an investigation into the influences of driving-related anger on driver attention. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 39, e70033. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.70033>

Lurie, R., Fabrizio, S. P., & Westerman, D. L. (2025). The cost of saving: How photos and screenshots impair memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 53(7), 2301–2311.
<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-025-01711-2>

Maier, P. M., Schommartz, I., Iggena, D., Finke, C., Ploner, C. J., & Shing, Y. L. (2025). Development of spatial memory consolidation: A comparison between children and adults. *Developmental Psychology*, 61(4), 761–776. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001799>

McKinley, G. L., & Peterson, D. J. (2025). The effect of fake news on memory for true events. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 39(1), e70019. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.70019>

Mishra, S. (2025). What is mine cannot be yours: How zero-sum perceptions of power and status shape men's perceptions of ingroup harm from women's hierarchical advancement. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000496>

Murphy, D. H., Stefanidi, A., & Brewer, G. A. (2025). Memory accessibility as a cue for perceived importance. *Memory & Cognition*, <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-025-01772-3>

Nastina, E., Andiappan, M., Miles, A., Upenieks, L., & Orfanidis, C. (2025). Are all kind acts equal? Exploring the role of prosocial act characteristics in actor's positive affect. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 166(3), 316–329.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2025.2478016>

- Oppenheimer, D. M., & Patterson, M. T. (2025). Thinking outside the box means thinking outside the search engine. *Memory & Cognition*, 53, 2686-2699. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-025-01732-x>
- Pennekamp, P., & Rubínová, E. (2025). Effects of jury warnings on perceptions of eyewitness credibility and defendant guilt. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 39(5), e70107. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.70107>.
- Pfund, G. N., Willroth, E. C., & English, T. (2025). Sense of purpose fluctuations in daily life: A study of young adults and cognitively diverse older adults. *Developmental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0002100>
- Pilcher, J. J., Weiskittel, S. E., & Byrne, K. A. (2025). Working memory performance and subjective stress during a simulated night shift. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 39(6), e70143. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.70143>.
- Plano, A. L., & Williams, C. C. (2025). Does object-to-scene binding depend on object and scene consistency? *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 87(3), 899-908. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-025-03037-2>
- Pu, J., & Gan, X. (2026). The potential roles of social ostracism and loneliness in the development of Dark Triad traits in adolescents: A longitudinal study. *Journal of Personality*, 94(1), 81–93. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jopy.13018>
- Reis, J., Nunes, F., Matos, P. M., & Mota, C. P. (2025). Are attachment to parents and self-efficacy linked with emerging adults' values of future expectations? *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 43(3), 742–754. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjdp.12548>
- Ruan, Q.-N., Yan, N., Chen, Z.-Y., & Yan, W.-J. (2026). Developmental trajectories of depressive symptoms in left-behind children: A longitudinal cohort study of the early adolescents. *Developmental Psychology*, 62(6), 1111–1119. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0002027>
- Spear, A. I., Johnson, R. L., Yun, H., Ashby, J., & Kleinsmith, A. L. (2025). To boldly go where no text has gone before: The effects of boldface letters on eye movements in reading. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 87(4), 1270-1286. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-025-03067-w>
- Strayer, D. L., & Unsworth, N. (2026). Investigating the role of attentional effort in the efficacy of goal-setting in reducing attention lapses. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 88(1), 26. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-025-03200-9>
- Tanberg, P., Yeung, R. C., & Fernandes, M. A. (2025). Evidence of temporal and emotional alignment between song cues and their evoked autobiographical memories. *Memory & Cognition*, 53(8), 2394–2405. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-025-01717-w>

- Tepper, S. J., & Gilovich, T. (2025). The minority-groups homogeneity effect: Seeing members of different minority groups as more similar to each other than members of the majority. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 129(5), 888–909. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000476>
- Wang, Q., Suo, T., Mei, L., Guan, L., Hou, Y., & Dai, Y. (2025). Do future actions matter more than past deeds? Temporal moral attribution in U.S. and Chinese school-age children. *Developmental Psychology*, 61(2), 228–240. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001825>
- Yan, J., Sakahara, T., Chen, S., Song, J., Hou, Y., Zhang, M., & Kim, S. Y. (2025). Cultural stress, parenting practices, and mental health among Mexican-origin mothers and adolescents: A dyadic approach. *Developmental Psychology*, 61(7), 1292–1305. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001954>
- Yucer, E., & Pratt, J. (2025). There is something eerie in rapidly perceiving faces. *Visual Cognition*, 33(5), 319-335. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13506285.2025.2589409>