

## **EXS 489 Exercise Science Research Methods Rubrics for Abstract Assessment**

Article abstracts will be assessed using the three rubrics below (knowledge, quality product and critical analysis). The total of the three scores plus one additional point for the accuracy of the APA format will comprise the abstract score; therefore each is worth a total of 10 points. Over the course of the semester, 75% of the abstracts must be of at least acceptable quality in order to meet minimal standards to pass the course.

### **Knowledge Rubric**

#### **3 Target**

Student demonstrates a thorough understanding of the article. The study is summarized in an accurate and concise fashion which includes all pertinent information.

#### **2 Acceptable**

Student demonstrates an accurate understanding of the article. Most of the key information is included and is interpreted correctly. Errors, if any, are minor.

#### **1 Needs Improvement**

Student demonstrates severe misconceptions about the article. Major points of the study are not grasped and/or the quality is so poor that content knowledge is undeterminable. Errors or incomplete information suggest a lack of comprehension in the article's purpose, procedures, interpretation of results and/or relevance.

### **Quality Product Rubric**

#### **3 Target**

The abstract meets or exceeds its purpose and the conventional standards for a quality product. The abstract is well-organized, and neat. No typos or technical errors (grammar, mechanics, spelling, sentence formation) appear.

#### **2 Acceptable**

Overall, the abstract is well-organized but may include some typos or technical errors. These minimal errors however do not distract the reader from understanding the article summary or critique.

#### **1 Needs Improvement**

The abstract does not meet its purpose nor is it of acceptable quality. Organization is lacking and sections are very poorly done, or perhaps missing entirely. Errors and/or typos are substantial.

### **Critical Analysis Rubric**

#### **3 Target**

The article critique was well thought out and includes insightful comments. It is obvious that the writer gave much thought into what the study was about and how it was conducted. Coupled with a good background knowledge of the area, the suggestions and criticisms were valuable.

#### **2 Acceptable**

The article critique included some good points but was fairly basic. Some apparent obvious points were either overlooked or not interpreted accurately.

#### **1 Needs Improvement**

The article critique was extremely superficial and lacked any useful information. It appeared that the writer did not understand what the article entailed or did not put much thought into how the study could be improved.

## **General Format for Abstracts** (typed, double-spaced with 1" margins)

Top of 1<sup>st</sup> Page – Bibliographic Information in APA format

Lin, S., & Woollacott, M. H. (2002). Postural muscle responses following changing balance threats in young, stable older, and unstable older adults. *Journal of Motor Behavior*, 34, 37-44.

### Introduction

In this section give a brief (1-3 sentences) intro to give the necessary background to the study and state its purpose (in your own words).

### Methods/Procedures

This section will be about 1/3 to 1/2 of a page in length and will describe the specifics of what the study involved. Be sure to talk about the subjects, subject groups, equipment used, variables measured, testing procedures and the statistical analyses conducted.

### Results

Discuss the major results found (sometimes a non-significant result is important).

### Conclusions

In your own words, summarize the researchers' conclusions.

### Critique

In the final 1/2 -page, discuss in detail your comments regarding the research study. In your opinion was it designed well? Why? Were the data collection procedures appropriate? Do you have suggestions on the subject population? Were the statistical analyses appropriate? Would you expand the scope of the study? Reduce the scope? What did you like about what the researchers did (or not), and why?

REMINDER: Any information which is taken word for word from the article **must be in quotation marks with the page number identified** (p. 38), otherwise it is considered plagiarized. With the exception of perhaps one or two sentences, the abstract should be in your own words anyway, so this should not be a major concern.