

Interesting Experiment or Observational Study

Your second task is to find an experiment or observational study that is interesting to you. It must come from a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, but it can be on any topic that you find interesting. We will refer to this study several times throughout the year; so make sure it is something that you find value in learning more about.

Please print the text of your article, unless it is longer than 5 pages. If it is longer than 5 pages, try to find a summary or synopsis. Especially make sure you include any graphs, charts, or tables provided.

Answer these prompts on a separate page for an experiment:

- What was the experimental design? (Look for words like *completely randomized*, *blocked*, *matched-pairs*, etc.)
- Was there a control group? How did this differ from other treatment groups?
- How were subjects chosen? Which larger population or group could conclusions from this experiment be inferred to?
- What types of calculations or tests were made to reach conclusions? (Look for words like *confidence interval*, *significance test*, *chi-square test*, *p-value*, etc.)
- Any other vocabulary words that were used? (Look for words like *blind*, *double blind*, *confounding*, *lurking variables*, etc.) Try to use context clues to determine what they mean.
- What was the general conclusion of the experiments?
- If you could do a follow up experiment, what would you do differently? Why would this make the experiment better?

Answer these prompts on a separate page for an observational study:

- How were subjects selected? (Look for words like *volunteers*, *Simple Random Sample/SRS*, *stratified random sample*, *cluster sample*, etc.) Which larger population or group could conclusions from this study be inferred to?
- Was there a control group? How did this differ from other groups?
- What types of calculations or tests were made to reach conclusions? (Look for words like *confidence interval*, *significance test*, *chi-square test*, *p-value*, etc.)
- Any other vocabulary words that were used? (Look for words like *bias*, *longitudinal*, *confounding*, *lurking variables*, etc.) Try to use context clues to determine what they mean.
- What was the general conclusion of the study?
- If you could do a follow up study, what would you do differently? Why would this make the study better?