Instructions for Students for Completing the ELC Readings Option

Students choosing the Readings Option must read an article about psychological research and then write a 1-2 page summary of the article. **Each summary will equal one (1) ELC.**

Papers are due on the last day of regular classes – December 2, 2026

Submitting your papers:
Your article summaries should be turned in to the instructor teaching the class for which you have the ELC requirement. Your instructor will determine how these summaries will be turned in to him or her (e.g., electronically via email, AsULearn, or turnitin, or via printed copy).

You must select your article from the following editions of ***Current Directions in Psychological Science***, a journal that contains articles from a wide variety of research areas in psychology. The articles in this journal are not technical; therefore, they are a good introduction to the research literature for undergraduate students in psychology. The issues from ***Current Directions in Psychological Science*** are:

Volume 33, Issue 1 (February 2024)
Volume 33, Issue 2 (April 2024)
Volume 33, Issue 3 (June 2024)
Volume 33, Issue 4 (August 2024)
Volume 33, Issue 5 (October 2024)
Volume 33, Issue 6 (December 2024)

For each article you are required to prepare a brief (1- 2 page) **typewritten** paper summarizing its contents. The first part of each paper should summarize the research in the article and the nature of its findings/conclusions. **The second part of each paper should be your reaction to the article: your own ideas about the research and its implications. If you omit this second part, your summaries will not pass.**

To find and read these articles, you should go to the Library Home Page http://library.appstate.edu/ and type in the journal name **"*Current Directions in Psychological Science*"** in the text field under the heading **Library Search**. Typing the name in double quotes will make it more likely that what you are looking for is the first result. The search result you need will be labeled "***Current Directions in Psychological Science* (online)."** This should be the first search term in the list of results. Click on **"Available Online."** Then click on **"Sage Journals – AutoHoldings"** from the list of options. Then, under the heading **All Issues**, click on **2024** – that will display all issues of **Volume 33**. You will then be able to choose an issue from the above list to peruse articles.

Note: We do not assume the responsibility of teaching you how to use the library's resources, including the use of electronic journals. It is your responsibility to learn to use the library's electronic journal system.

Formatting: Papers must be formatted as described below:

You must double space, use no larger than 1 inch margins, and use Times New Roman 12 point font.

At the top of each paper, you must include the following heading information: **Your first and last name, your instructor's name, your section number, the title of the article you are summarizing, the author(s) of the article, and the volume and issue number of the journal.** This heading information must be single spaced.

The text of the summary, not including any heading information at the top, must be longer than 1 page, and cannot be longer than 2 pages. You do not need a "works cited" or "references" page. You are not allowed to include direct quotes in these papers; the summaries should be written in your own words so that it's clear you have understood the information in the articles. While one or two grammatical or spelling errors will not be a problem, excessive errors will cause us to fail your papers. As with all ELC assignments, the papers are graded on a pass/fail basis. Papers that are hand written or that are illegible due to the ink running out on the printer or other reasons will fail (if you are not submitting your paper electronically).

Plagiarism: Papers that are plagiarized will receive a failing grade. Plagiarism includes 1) using sentences in your summary that are identical, or nearly identical, to sentences in the article, and (2) copying the work of other students, from the present or past semesters.

Summary of Paper Requirements:

1. Correct formatting (1 inch margins, 12 font Times New Roman 12 font, double spaced)
2. Heading information (first and last name, psychology section and instructor, volume and issue number of journal article, title and author of article)
3. Heading information single (not double) spaced
4. Must be at least 1 page (not including heading info) and no more than 2 pages
5. Must include a personal reaction to the paper/findings
6. Summary of article with no direct quotations and no plagiarism