

**ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINE: JOURNAL SUMMARIES**

The objective of this assignment is to familiarize you with contemporary criminological research, the manner in which it is conducted and reported, and the terminology associated with criminology. The completion of this assignment will foster the development of analytical and critical thinking skills, your ability to synthesize information, as well as your ability to clearly and succinctly articulate your understanding of the material reviewed.

For this part of the assignment, you will demonstrate your ability to review and summarize the findings of a criminological study by choosing two journal articles: one that simply reports on some aspect of criminal justice related research (journal summary #1) and one that reports on a research study that attempts to explain criminality (journal summary #2). Each journal article must report on an original research study completed by the authors. In other words, the authors actually collected data on some aspect of criminal justice or criminal behaviour and report their findings in the article. This is in contrast to someone who writes an essay about some aspect of crime or criminal justice. A good test to determine whether your article is a research study is to make sure there is a heading in the article entitled "Method" or "Data and Measures". In addition to this, all articles reporting on research will have another heading entitled "Results" and "Analysis". There are variations on these titles, but research articles typically are formatted in this way.

**If you are unclear about whether your chosen articles are appropriate, please come and see me to discuss your selection.**

**Journal Summary #1****Due date: 20 October 2004**

The **first journal article** you summarize can be on any general criminology research. The research might examine policing behaviour, the evaluation of correctional programming, the evaluation of a theoretical model, the role of the courts, or some aspect of a particular crime or criminal justice system response.

The only qualifiers are that the research is on something criminal justice related and that data were actually collected.

**Journal Summary #2****Due date: 24 November 2004**

The **second summary** must be of a research study attempting to explain criminal behaviour. The authors therefore are testing a criminology theory by applying it to subjects, in this case, offenders. The theory is tested to determine its validity and reliability as a theory of crime.

**Journal Sources**

The first journal article summarized must be found in a (print) journal located at the library. If you are comfortable using the Internet to find journal articles, the second journal article may be found on-line. A list of criminal justice related academic journals, many of which we have at the Camosun College Library, are provided at the end of this guideline.

Please make sure to make a copy of your journal articles, as a copy of each article must be submitted with each journal summary for evaluation.

### **Organization of the Summary**

In summarizing the articles you find, you will need to address the following:

- Clear identification of the **research problem** (for example, criminal behaviour, delinquency, robbery, wife assault, sentencing decisions, judicial decision-making, police use of force, treatment programs, public attitudes on criminal justice) (1 mark)
- The criminological theory being tested **or** (in the case of a qualitative study) the purpose of the study and the rationale for the study (2 marks)
- The way in which the study was conducted: the method used to collect data (for example, where and when the study were done; method of data collection such as experiment, questionnaire, interviews, observation, case study, analysis of existing crime data; research procedures such as sample size, who was included in the sample; how data were analyzed) (2 marks)
- The research findings (what did the researchers learn?) (2 marks)
- The conclusions drawn (what conclusions did the researchers make?) (1 mark)

Your summary may not exceed two typed/word processed, double-spaced pages in length. Ideally, one to one-and-a-half pages would be an appropriate length. The summary should start with a brief introduction in which you mention the author and article by title. The introduction would be followed by a paragraph clearly addressing each of the five points above. You may even wish to create subheadings such as: Research Problem, Criminological Theory Tested or Purpose of Study, Research Methods, Research Findings, Conclusion (s) Drawn.

To avoid any concerns about plagiarism, care should be taken to make sure your summaries are sufficiently different from the abstracts provided at the beginning of the articles. The summary should contain few if any quotations. If you use a quote, you need to properly cite the source by listing the author, year of publication and page number using the American Psychological Association method of referencing as described in your Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual. Paraphrased information should be referenced in accordance with parenthetical citations in the Writing Reference Manual.

At the end of the summary, you need to give the full bibliographic reference for the article by following the method described in the Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual.

Your summary should NOT include:

- Tables, graphs, charts or diagrams
- Footnotes or endnotes
- Numerous quotations (limit quotations to one or two, used only when you absolutely cannot put the excerpt into your own words or to support or exemplify a point that you would like to make)
- References to other authors or resources.

**Submission Format**

You must submit a print copy of the articles with your summaries so that I may also review them. I cannot mark your journal summary unless a print copy of the journal article is included.

Please use plain white letter size paper (8.5 x 11 inches) for this assignment. Your journal summary should have a separate title page identifying your name and student number, the course number and section, the program and college, the term, the instructor's name, the date the assignment is due, and the title of the assignment (for example, Journal Summary #1 or Journal Summary #2). The journal summaries should be stapled together in the left hand corner with the journal article attached at the back after your summary. Please do NOT use assignment covers or jackets. *For further information on submission requirements, please refer to the Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual.*

**Evaluation**

Each journal summary is valued at 10 marks. In assigning marks, I will be looking for your demonstrated understanding of the article and points identified, and the clarity and manner with which you express this understanding.

Research problem	1
Theory tested or purpose of study	2
Method of data collection	2
Research findings	2
Conclusions drawn	1
Bibliographic reference	1
Organization, spelling/grammar	1
Total	10 marks

**If you have questions or concerns about this assignment, please come to see me at the earliest opportunity.**

### **Criminal Justice Journals**

These journals are available at Camosun College and will be good resources for finding articles needed in the Journal Summary Assignment.

Canadian Criminology Forum  
Canadian Journal of Criminology  
Canadian Journal of Criminology and Corrections  
Canadian Journal of Women and the Law  
Canadian Police College Journal  
Crime & Delinquency  
Criminal Justice and Behaviour  
Criminology  
Criminology and Public Policy  
International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice  
International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology  
Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice  
Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology  
Justice Report  
Social Problems  
Women and Criminal Justice

Other criminology journals:

British Journal of Criminology <http://bjc.oupjournals.org/current.shtml>  
Criminology and Public Policy <http://www.asc41.com/cpppage.html>  
Critical Criminology: An International Journal <http://www.critcrim.org/journal.htm>  
Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture <http://www.albany.edu/scj/jcipc/>  
National Institute of Justice Journal <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/jr000251.htm>  
Western Criminology Review <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/v5n1/v5n1.html>

Other relevant social science journals:

American Journal of Psychology  
American Journal of Psychiatry  
Journal of Abnormal Psychology  
Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis  
Journal of Experimental Psychology  
Journal of Personality & Social Psychology  
Journal of Forensic Sciences  
Canadian Journal of Native Studies  
Journal of Social Issues