# Citation and Summary of One Article

Students in Research Methods are typically tasked with at least one assignment that requires them to find, cite, summarize, and/or critique limitations of scholarly empirical articles.  These types of assignments are done over a period of several days or weeks, so it's good to start early!

This document provides students with an outline for citing, summarizing, and critiquing the limitations of a single scholarly empirical article. If your project requires a literature review, these paraphrased summaries can be compiled to write a synthesized review of the literature for your reader.

## APA Citation (See <http://guides.ucf.edu/APA> )

1. APA reference for the article -
2. APA in-text citation for the article –
   1. First time –
   2. Subsequent times –

## Summarize the Empirical Article

Keep in mind that summarizing the empirical article requires that you limit your description to the study performed by the authors of the article. Do not use their review of the prior literature as part of your own. Most of what you need will be found in the article’s introduction, methods section (and immediately prior), results/findings, and conclusion/discussion.

1. Using your own words, briefly identify the following and note the page number at which you found the information, if applicable:
   1. Purpose of the empirical study –
   2. Sample –
      1. Method of sampling –
         * Identify the sampling method and briefly describe the process
      2. Description of sample –
      3. Strengths and limitations of sampling –
         * What is the target population to which it is generalizable?
         * Did everyone in the sample have a known equal chance of being selected from the population the research is inferring to?
   3. [Relevant] Variables/measures –
      1. Dependent variable(s) -
      2. Independent variables(s) -
      3. Control variables(s) -
      4. Were measures well conceptualized and operationalized?
         * Do the variables make sense?
         * Did the researcher use measures already established in prior literature?
         * Was a variable measured in more than one way?
         * Did the authors state that they took particular steps to ensure validity and/or reliability?
   4. Design/methodology/approach –
      1. Method of design –
         * Identify the design method and briefly describe the process
      2. Strengths and limitations of design –
         * Can a relationship between variables be explained by some other variable?
   5. Authors’ findings and implications -

Note about quotes – keep in mind that if you quote the authors, you need to include the page number in your APA citation.