

Popular vs. Peer Review

DUE: 10/12/2022

Goal: To find and read a popular news article about obesity, and then compare it to the peer review research the popular news article is reporting on/summarizing.

Why: Most people consume their science news from popular online outlets, whether they be science specific websites or mainstream news sites. However, things are often twisted or lost in translation from the original peer review research to that summary blasted in the news. It is extremely important to learn how to assess the accuracy of popular summaries of peer reviewed research. We have all seen what happens when the popular version does a poor job of representing the original research.

Format: Either a blog post or an infographic

Teamwork Statement: you can work in pairs, but you must tell me before hand by filling out [THIS GOOGLE SHEET](#). Use the right tab!

Tasks:

- 1) Find a popular news article about obesity (preferably recent).
- 2) Read it and track down the original peer reviewed research upon which this article is based.
- 3) Read both the popular article and the peer reviewed article
- 4) Compare and contrast the following from both the popular article and peer reviewed article:
 - a. Study goal(s)
 - b. Study methods
 - c. Key points/main findings of each
 - d. Importance/implications/applicability of this work
- 5) Critique how well the popular article represented the peer reviewed research
 - a. What did they get wrong?
 - b. What did they get right?
 - c. Do you think any mistakes were intentional?
 - d. Was the popular article trying to a story from a different perspective (this could be interested in a part of the research or it could be due to author or news outlet bias)?
 - i. If there was an obvious bias – why do you think there is?
 - e. How might someone reading **only** the popular article interpret the results of the peer reviewed research
- 6) Produce your own accurate, yet accessible to a broad audience of readers summary of the peer review research – **NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS – but can include images**
- 7) Present your above tasks/analysis in either the form of a blog post or an infographic

- a. Definitely use images (including figures or pictures from both articles) as needed!
- b. For those of you who have done infographics for me before, this assignment will require the infographic be a bit more texty – that is ok! Still use good imagery, though.

Things to Turn In:

- 1) The blog post or infographic to this [FOLDER](#)
 - a. If you do a blog post using Google Pages or WordPress, submit a document with the link
 - b. MAKE SURE NAMES ARE ON THE INFOGRAPHIC OR BLOG POST
 - c. Be sure to properly site the popular and peer reviewed articles (any format is fine)
- 2) [Self-Reflection](#)

Infographic Guidance: Remix at the Hesburgh Libraries is a wonderful resource on help for projects like this: <https://remix.nd.edu/>. They even have one specifically for infographics: <https://remix.nd.edu/infographic.html>. Here are lots of examples ranging from complicated to simplistic: <https://www.creativebloq.com/graphic-design-tips/information-graphics-1232836>.

Remix Media Corps: group of people at Remix there to help you! They have “office hours” Sunday-Thursday from 3:30pm-9:30pm in 256 Hesburgh Library. You can book a consultation with them as well: <https://remix.nd.edu/media-corps/index.html>

See my website for some excellent examples from last semester:
<http://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/evolutionary-forces-infographic/>

Website/Blog Post Guidance: You can (but do not have to) use ND Sites to make this site. Here is a link to ND sites (<http://sites.nd.edu/create-a-blog/>). You can also use any free website builder you like (Google pages, WordPress, Wix, etc.). However, you should review the following to make sure you are building this website in an ethically appropriate way (e.g. not plagiarizing).

Appropriate use:

https://policy.nd.edu/assets/185268/responsible_use_it_resources_2015.pdf

Copyright: <https://policy.nd.edu/assets/203061/intellectualpropertypolicy.pdf>

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