

## Writing a critical review

- Due at the *START* of the class period
- By email *before class* - please put *your name* in the file name and make a pdf.

	<u>points</u>
Turn in on time	5
1) Summarize paper	5
Summarize results	10
2) Critique	
argument	10
support	10
3) Conclusions	10
TOTAL	<hr/> 50

### Our rationale:

I will use this grading rubric for your critical review papers. Length should be one to two paragraphs for each of the sections outlined below, or, ca. 1 page single space. If you want feedback on the review from Dr. May, double-spaced will help ( $\leq 2$  pgs).

#### 1) Summary:

Summarize the paper: Your critique should make a short explanation of the underlying theory or hypotheses and give some background to illustrate why the work is important. Focus on the central ideas of the paper. Is the question meaningful and has it been framed in a clear and correct manner (is there a better question)?

Summarize the most important results of the paper: How did the authors' address their questions in their experimental system? Your summary of the main ideas of the paper plus the results should provide the material for the critique and lead into it in a logical manner.

**2) Critique:** Critiques should primarily focus on the paper itself - experiments, data and analyses presented in the paper rather than suggesting entirely new experiments not in the paper. Choose one or two key points on which to comment, and then back your points up by citing the results or analyses presented in the paper (and summarized above). Are key experimental controls missing? *Are there hidden assumptions?*

If you find problems in the results or limitations in data analyses, how would these affect the conclusions that can be made? Does data justify conclusions drawn or should the authors have made more limited conclusions? Did they misinterpret their own data?

**3) Conclusions:** Here, you pull the ideas and information together to come to your most incisive conclusions about the paper. The conclusions paragraph should not repeat the summary. Here, you might suggest additional experiments that would be worthwhile but avoid the 'cheap shot' - think in terms of the questions posed in the paper rather than entirely new sets of questions that are only possible now (with new technology or data from this paper).