

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Participation in research studies uniquely allows you to learn and experience firsthand what research is like. However, for students unable to participate in research studies due to age, lack of time, or missed appointments (see no-show policy), there is an option to complete an alternative assignment that will count towards your research requirement hours for the semester.

Please note that students **CAN COMBINE** alternative assignment credits with research study credits to meet the specified semester credit requirements.

DEADLINE: You must submit your alternative assignment **no later than Monday, December 7, 2026**, to receive full credit.

SUBMISSIONS: All submissions should be submitted via the Google form attached below:

<https://forms.gle/CPmNLSHT9gNSug3T7>

CONTACT: If you have experienced any issues with your submission, please contact research pool coordinator Max Barela via sjsuspc@gmail.com

NOTICE: Students must adhere to the SJSU Academic Integrity policy and must write their submissions individually and in their own words, without the use of AI tools. AI refers to artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT). Submitting work that was previously submitted in another class is also prohibited. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in receiving partial or no credit. All Submissions will undergo quality control.

****Use of AI is prohibited and will result in 0 points if detected.****

INSTRUCTIONS:

The alternative assignment consists of you reading one **scholarly journal article** (in which the researchers conducted an experiment or survey study), and then you writing about the study's *strengths and weaknesses* and its *application to your life*.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

What are some of the most important strengths and weaknesses of the experiment or survey study that the researchers conducted? You can discuss strengths and weaknesses that relate to the research methods of the study (e.g., how the researchers set up and carried out their experiment or survey, how the researchers measured the concepts in their study and made their conclusions based on them, which people participated in the experiment or survey, etc.). You can also discuss strengths and weaknesses that relate to how realistic (or unrealistic) you think the experiment or survey study is.

APPLICATION TO MY LIFE:

How do the findings of the experiment or survey study apply to your own life? You can discuss how the results of the study relate to your future career or your current job. You can also discuss how the results relate to another aspect (or aspects) of your own life, such as your family, romantic relationships, health, wellbeing, emotions, classes, extracurricular activities, etc.

Please include the headings for each of the two sections of your write-up (strengths and weaknesses, application to my life). Your write-up should be double-spaced.

The alternative assignment write-up length depends on the amount of alternative assignment credits needed.

The credit (in hours) you receive will also be dependent upon the length of the article you read. Please note that the reference pages **do not** count towards the length requirement. The criteria are:

Table 1: Credits, Article Page Amount, and Write-Up Length Requirements

Credits	Article Page Amount	Length of Your Write-Up (Double-Spaced)
1 hour of credit	5 to 10 pages	½ page - strengths and weaknesses ½ page - application to my life
2 hours of credit	11 to 15 pages	¾ page - strengths and weaknesses ¾ page - application to my life
3 hours of credit	16 to 20 pages	1 page - strengths and weaknesses 1 page - application to my life
4 hours of credit	21 or more pages	1¼ pages - strengths and weaknesses 1¼ pages - application to my life

Example: An article from pages 227-241 is counted as 2 hours of credit (15 pages)

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1) Both your write-up response and the article you read should be submitted via the Google form (<https://forms.gle/CPmNLShT9gNSuq3T7>). Your alternative assignment can be submitted in either doc or PDF format. However, for the article of your choice, please submit a PDF copy of the article. You may submit more than one alternative assignment at once. If you plan to submit multiple alternative assignments, please make sure to name them accordingly.

2) Please title your attachments according to which documents they are. For attached write-ups: Your full name, Alternative Assignment, Write up. For the attached articles: Your full name, Alternative Assignment, and Article.

3) The article must be from a **SCIENTIFIC, PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL**. The article **MUST SHOW** the publication source (where it came from) and the page numbers. You may not

Contact Max Barela (sjsuspc@gmail.com) with any questions

type the name and page numbers in yourself. You may choose any topic to write about as long as it is psychology-related. Make sure you choose an article that relates to the workplace or other real-life situations.

(**NOTE:** Newspapers, magazines, books, book reviews, dissertations, or website articles are **inappropriate** for this assignment. For example, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Psychology Today*, *Newsweek*, and *Depression.com* are all unacceptable sources.)

HELPFUL TIPS:

The following are **good examples** of good scientific journals:

- American Psychologist
- Child Development
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

King Library's Databases can be accessed at the following link:

<https://library.sjsu.edu/az/databases>

Need help finding scholarly or peer-reviewed articles? View this online tutorial from the King Library:

<https://library.sjsu.edu/az/tutorials/finding-scholarly-peer-reviewed-articles>

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT FORMAT:

Please adhere to the following formatting instructions for your Alternative Assignment write-up. Also, don't forget to attach your article along with the write-up in the google form! Failure to follow these instructions may result in partial credit.

(Top right side of the page)

Name

SJSU ID#

Professor's name

Section #/ Day / Time of class

Title of the Article

Strengths and Weaknesses

Based on the amount of pages required by Table 1, discuss some of the most important strengths and weaknesses of the experiment or survey study that the researchers conducted.

See page 1 for further details about what to write in this section. Make sure you have set your margins at one inch!

Application to My Life

Following the page requirements shown in Table 1, discuss how the findings of the

experiment or survey study apply to your own life. See page 1 for further details about what to write in this section. Each section of your write-up must be a minimum of at least 5 sentences.