How to Write a Journal Article Review APA Style

A journal article review is a common assignment in college and graduate school. Follow the instructor’s guidelines first and the APA format second. Articles should be from peer-reviewed or scholarly journals and relate to the field of study that the class discusses.

- Search the library's online databases, such as Academic Search Complete and Ebsco, to find scholarly or peer-reviewed articles. A librarian can assist as well.

- Read the entire article. Many journal articles can be quite complex and use complicated wording and statistics. Be sure to look up any words you do not know. You may need to read the article a few times before you get a full grasp of it.

- Write a citation for the journal article at the top of the review. Consult the APA-style manual for format. You will need the title of the article, the journal where the article is published, the volume and issue number, publication date, author’s name and page numbers for the article.

- Write a summary of the article. This should be one to three paragraphs, depending on the length of the article. Include the purpose for the article, how research was conducted, the results and other pertinent information from the article.

- Discuss the meaning or implication of the results of the article’s study. This should be one to two paragraphs. This is where you offer your opinion on the article. Discuss any flaws with the article, how you think it could have been better and what you think it all means.

- Write one paragraph on how the author could expand on the results, what the information means in the big picture, what future research should focus on or how future research could move the topic forward. Discuss how knowledge in the area could be expanded.

- Cite any direct quotes or paraphrases from the article. Use the author’s name, the year of publication and the page number (for quotes) in the in-text citation.