COM Research Participation

Written discussions

COM students who want to earn research credit (course or extra credit depending on the course) but choose not to participate in empirical studies for whatever reason (e.g., they don’t meet study requirements, ethical concerns regarding research participation), may write a discussion of a presentation on communication. One written discussion is the equivalent of one research credit.

Students who choose the written discussion option must complete the following steps:

1) Email the Research Coordinator for the written alternative assignment. **In your email, include the following:**
   a. **Written Alternative Request for Research Participation** in the email’s **subject** line.
   b. In the message, include:
      i. Your name and email address as listed in the SONA system.
      ii. A request for the written alternative option for research credit.
      iii. Remember to show respect, and write using a professional tone in your email messages. Detail the request you are making, and include your signature. It is very important to sign your name because your email address usually does not include your full name.
   c. **Students must request the Written Alternative option by the sign-up/request deadline.** Go to the COM webpage (http://communicationstudies.unlv.edu/) and select “Research Participation Information” for semester deadlines

2) Once you obtain the article or video, read or watch it!

3) Address the following points:
   a. Provide the complete APA citation (i.e., reference listing information) for the article or video.
   b. Summarize in 1 – 2 paragraphs the article or video.
   c. Identify 1 concept from the article/video that can be applied to concepts and ideas discussed in your COM class.
      i. Define that concept according to your class materials (cite accordingly).
      ii. Explain how that concept was used and illustrated in the article/video.
   d. Explain the practical implications for everyday life: How can you use the ideas presented to improve or alter your life?

4) Type up the summary using the following format (see the following page for an example of an article summary’s first page):
   a. 10-12 font, Times or Times New Roman
   b. Double spaced with 1 inch margins
   c. Write complete sentences that are free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors – edit and proof-read your response before submitting it. Incomplete or unacceptable responses will be returned and no credit will be awarded (See #5 below).
   d. Provide your name and email address (as listed in SONA) and the semester and year in the upper left hand corner of the document.
   e. Use APA 6th edition as your referencing style. APA is the primary reference manual used in the social sciences, such as Communication Studies, Psychology, and Sociology.
   f. **Direct quotes are not permitted.** Write the response in your own words. You may not work on your response with other students or use previously submitted responses. **Plagiarism will be reported to the student conduct office for disciplinary action.**

5) Incomplete or unacceptable responses will be returned to the student with no credit assigned. If time permits, the student may resubmit a revised response to attempt to earn credit. Therefore, students should submit their responses as soon as possible in case revisions are required. **It is the student's responsibility to make the request and meet submission deadlines.** If a response needs revision but the student does not resubmit the revised version in time, then no credit will be assigned.