**OCB 3017**

**Review of Scientific Research Article**

1. Skim the article without taking notes:

* Read the abstract. The abstract will tell you the major findings of the article and why they matter.
* Read first for the “big picture.”
* Note any terms or techniques you need to define.
* Jot down any questions or parts you don’t understand.
* If you are unfamiliar with any of the key concepts in the article, look them up in a textbook.

2. Re-read the article more carefully:

* Pay close attention to the “Materials and Methods” and “Results” sections.
* Ask yourself questions about the study, such as:
  + Was the study repeated?
  + What was the sample size? Is this representative of the larger population?
  + What variables were held constant? Was there a control?
  + What factors might affect the outcome?

3. Read the “Materials and Methods” and “Results” sections multiple times:

* Carefully examine the graphs, tables, and diagrams.
* Try to interpret the data first before reading the captions and details.
* Make sure you understand the article fully.

4. Before you begin the first draft of your summary:

* Try to describe the article in your own words first.
* Try to distill the article down to its “scientific essence.”
* Include all the key points and be accurate.
* A reader who has not read the original article should be able to understand your summary.
* Example of a well-written summary:
  + *The egg capsules of the marine snails* Nucella lamellosa *and* N. lima *protect developing embryos against low-salinity stress, even though the solute concentration within the capsules falls to near that of the surrounding water within about 1 h.*

5. Write a draft of your summary:

* Don’t plagiarize!!!!! Write everything in your own words.
* Refer back to the article later for details and facts.
* Ask yourself questions as you write:
  + What is the purpose of the study? What questions were asked?
  + How did the study address these questions? What statistics were used? Did any methodologies confuse you?
  + What assumptions did the author make?
  + What were the major findings?
  + What surprised you or struck you as interesting?
  + What questions are still unanswered?

**Format**

* A complete citation of the article goes at the top of the page, below your heading.
* Don’t skip a line between the citation and the start of the essay.
* Indent the first line of the essay.
* Be concise and eliminate superfluous information.
* Summarize the background information leading up to the study, explain the methods and important findings. What are the major results and impacts from this study?

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