

## **Requirements for Final Critique**

Your critique is expected to demonstrate critical thinking in the evaluation of an epidemiologic paper. Critical thinking is defined as “the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.” (taken from a draft statement by Michael Scriven and Richard Paul for the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking Instruction).

The article for the critique is available on Blackboard. You are expected to draw upon all the concepts that you have studied this semester. Please note the following specific requirements for the final critique:

1. Each student is expected to work on his/her critique alone. The Carolinian Creed applies. You are to work on the critique entirely on your own. If you are unclear on anything related to the Honor Code as it applies to this assignment contact Dr. White.
2. Due date and extensions. The critique is due on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, by 5pm. A hardcopy of the critique should be submitted to Dr. White (Discovery, Room 456). You are encouraged to submit a pre-submission of your assignment. The deadline to submit the pre-submission is Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. You should expect to receive comments on your pre-submission within 24 hours. Please note that a critique after the due date will result in a lower grade (5 points/day; including weekends).
3. Length and format. The critique should be 6-8 pages. Citations should not be counted towards the page go in a separate section are not counted towards the word limit. Use 12 point font, at least 1 ½ line spacing and 1 inch margins on all your pages. Create a title page that contains both your name and the last 4 digits of your student identification number. Make sure to number all pages and staple out document.
4. Structure. The paper should be structured into a series of paragraphs and not bullet points.
5. Grading. The information provided for each of the subsections of the critique outline will be weighted as indicated by the grading rubric.
6. Citations. You do not need to refer to literature other than the article you are critiquing, though you are welcome to do so. If you use information from the literature in your critique, be sure to provide the complete citation to the source.

<b>SECTION OF PAPER</b>	<b>POINT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL POINTS</b>
<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the public health significance and context of the study?</li> <li>• What were the objectives and hypotheses tested?</li> </ul>	<b>2 pts</b> -1 -1	
<b>Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What type of study was conducted?</li> <li>• Describe the source of the study population and process of subject selection</li> <li>• Describe measurement of primary exposure and outcome.</li> <li>• List the confounders that were included in the study. What methods were used to control for confounding during the design and analysis stage?</li> <li>• Was effect modification assessed in the study? If so, what variables were examined?</li> <li>• Could there have been bias in the selection of study subjects or the collection of information from study subjects? How likely was the bias? What efforts were made to minimize potential sources of bias.</li> <li>• What measures of association were reported in the study?</li> </ul>	<b>16 pts</b> -1 -2 -2 -3 -1 -6 -1	
<b>Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize major findings of study</li> </ul>	<b>2 pts</b> -2	
<b>Discussion and Conclusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What were the author's main conclusions? Were they justified by the findings?</li> <li>• Describe how the interpretation of the results may be affected by bias (information or selection) and confounding?</li> <li>• Do you think the discussion section adequately addresses the limitations of the study? What other limitations could have influence the inferences drawn from the study?</li> <li>• To what larger population can the results of this study be generalized?</li> </ul>	<b>7 pts</b> -2 -2 -2 -1	
<b>Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall effective and accurate use of course concepts</li> </ul>	<b>3 pts</b> -3	
	<b>TOTAL 30</b>	
<b>Extra Credit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent to which the manuscript meets the CONSORT or STROBE reporting guidelines</li> </ul>	<b>-2</b>	
	<b>FINAL SCORE</b>	