Article Assignment

Often, popular media reports findings from scientific studies. However, readers seldom locate and read original sources. I want you all to do that here.

To simplify, please submit to eLearning in a format that resembles an email. It does not need to be formal (no APA citations), but it does need to be thoughtful and well written. The point is to make investigating, writing about, and discussing original sources a little more enjoyable and less imitating.

Grading: **You get full credit or you don’t. Full credit results in your highest test grade counting twice. No credit results in your lowest test grade counting twice.** You’ll have one chance to re-write if your submission is deemed unacceptable. Shoot for about a page in length, no spaces. Below, I have provided an example to get you started.

Dear Dr. Touchstone,

This weekend I was reading The Atlantic and I came across an article tilted, *Give It Up Already*, by June Savage. In it, the author discusses the ill effects of over-parenting, or helicopter parenting, as some say. She states that … (3-4 sentences here). To support her story, Ms. Savage refers to research conducted at Northwestern University. I investigated the research myself and read the original source.

Researchers Smith, Sammons & Sye published the article, *Negative effects of over-involvement in routines of preschool children,* in an issue of Pediatrics (2012). The authors conducted a study with 130 families of preschool children in suburban Chicago.

* participants
* methods
* findings

Make sure this section provides more detailed information than the magazine article that alerted you to the research.

In my opinion, the authors missed a major opportunity here. (Explain your position.)

Or

In my opinion, this article is a significant contribution, especially for parents today. (Explain your position.)

Or

In my opinion, Ms. Savage did a great job of conveying scientific information to a broad audience, because the research is relevant to so many. (Discuss your position further.)