

Student Worksheet: Analyzing a Journal Article

Please read the assigned journal article and answer the following questions. Remember to paraphrase to avoid plagiarism.

Your name: Whitten Williams _____ Date: _____

Journal article citation (APA):

Carter, D. (2019). Using translation-based CI to read Latin literature. *Journal of Classics Teaching*, 20(39), 90-94. doi:10.1017/S2058631019000151

Step 1. What is the purpose/hypothesis/aim/objective of the study?

<p>a. Write down the exact statement in which the authors describe what they were testing. (Hint: This information may be provided in the article as a purpose statement or as a hypothesis). Include quotation marks around the exact wording, and indicate page number(s).</p>	<p>The author states that their purpose for this study is to “describe my own experience over the last eight years of making Latin literature comprehensible to students via translation. I then go on to discuss how translation may be used to develop ‘procedural’ knowledge and reading skills” 4th paragraph</p>
<p>b. Now describe the purpose of the study (as you understand it) in your own words.</p>	<p>The author is trying to understand how Krashen’s Comprehensible Input theory can be applied to reading Latin, the author seems to be seeking some new secret method that keeps reading comprehensible but doesn’t rely on speaking.</p>
<p>c. What was the “gap” in the research that the authors were trying to fill by doing their study?</p>	<p>The author is looking for a way to train Latin students quickly and, in a manner, conducive to more natural acquisition. The author believes the gap lies in making written texts more comprehensible and, tests this hypothesis by manipulating word order/writing English translations attached to words.</p>

Step 2. What is/are the major finding(s) of the study?

<p>a. Make some notes about the authors' <u>major</u> conclusions or findings as written in the article. Include quotation marks whenever you use their exact wording, and indicate page number(s).</p>	<p>The author mentions extensively the work of a James Hamilton who supposedly had 10-year-old Latin beginners reading a page of Caesar as quickly as they could read English. James Hamilton used interlinear translations (translations attached to each word). The author has had success with a beginning college student.</p>
<p>b. Now write those conclusions (as you understand them) in your own words.</p>	<p>The Author through many years of his own experience has verified that this idea of interlinear translation is effective, and that it is possible to teach Latin students massive amounts of language quickly using these methods.</p>

Step 3. How did the authors test their hypothesis?

<p>a. Briefly summarize the main steps or measurements that the authors used in their methods. Try to explain in your own words as much as possible.</p>	<p>The Author used the historical example to prove that there may be a connection. The Author then describes how students learned using his textbook that was developed in generally the same manner (interlinear translations). He also describes an experiment he has set up with a single student to recreate the environments described with Hamilton.</p>
<p>b. Do the authors suggest any problems or limitations with their methodology? Do you see any problems or limitations with their methodology?</p>	<p>The Author mentions that it is unlikely that he will have a chance to re-create the situation that Hamilton took advantage of earlier. I think their scope is far too narrow, additionally there is not a very solid or consistent way that the author claims to get data from.</p>
<p>c. How did the authors analyse their data? What test/s did they use?</p>	<p>The author relied on feedback from teachers for data, and they equated what teachers prefer with what is correct.</p>

Step 4. How reliable are the results?

a. Do the authors suggest any problems with the study that could lead to unreliable results?

The author mentions that the single student on which he is intensely testing his hypothesis on does not do everything that the author recommends. It is a very long list, and he seems to be willing to acknowledge that it might have some long-term affect on the study.

Step 5. Based on your analysis, are the claims made in this journal article accurate?

a. Do the conclusions made (about the results) by the author make sense to you? Are the conclusions too broad or too narrow based on what was actually done in the study?

I think the conclusions are too broad with the actual contents of the study. He hypothesises, but there is not really a strong confirmation of his hypothesis, aside from the story of a man who taught Latin in 1826

b. Based on the accuracy of the methodology and the reliability of the results as described in Steps 3 and 4, do you think the conclusions can be believed?

I think that the logic that the author applies to the lesson is generally ok, but I don't think that there is any meaningful evidence. I might feel good about the conclusion, and it might make sense, but I don't think that the data does enough to make the conclusion overturn any other studies.

Step 6. What is the importance of this scientific work?

<p>a. Write (in your own words) the significant contributions of the experimental work in this journal article as reported by the authors.</p>	<p>The author is starting down a good path that seeks to blend the art of teaching with comprehensible input, with the reading focused world of Latin. Regardless of the data I find this path interesting for many different reasons, I think other people who want to find the best method for teaching Latin would agree. The idea of making it more comprehensible is in line other working theories, the author just loses me when he advocates for always having the Latin and the English side by side.</p>
<p>b. Re-read your notes and explain why you think this is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a strong or weak scientific article ○ a strong or weak scientific study 	<p>I think this is a weak scientific article, mostly because of the lack of hard evidence to support conclusions. However, I know that this person is probably still in the beginning stages of whatever studies they might be planning, and I am very excited to see future studies. I also think the article has merits because its hypothesis closely mirrors Krashen's theory's</p>