

Marking rubric for research journal entries (20 marks)

Header

All journal information complete (1 mark)

Context

Identifies the general field, provides motivation for the study, and gives enough information to understand the purpose (3 marks)

- Think of this section as building up, sentence by sentence, a series of concepts to the point where the purpose makes sense.

Purpose

Clearly and concretely describes the purpose of the study. (2 marks)

- This is simple, just what they were trying to do, in the simplest language you can use and still be accurate.

Approach

Describes how they go about *achieving the purpose*, in general terms, and what exactly they did (i.e. scope of the study. Can contain specific details (e.g. experimental method) but these should be readable and useful. (4 marks)

- This should not just be the paper's methods. It is really more generally about their *methodology*, really their approach to the problem. Look at the examples.

Contribution

Describes the outcomes of the study. This includes results, but also any key discussion points/conclusions, or any information about the importance of the results for the field. (4 marks)

- The results/conclusions you give should relate to what you said the purpose was. Try to avoid the temptation to just list their key experimental results. Your job is also to interpret them for the reader, to understand their significance. If the paper is old, say something about what came out of this work.

Relevance

Explains how the paper is relevant to the student's own project, and how it will contribute to their understanding/progress. (2 marks)

Quality

Makes some assessment of the paper in terms of, e.g. the quality of its writing, the arguments presented, or the results obtained. (1 mark)

- This doesn't have to be long, you just need to show that you have had a crack at thinking about the paper critically.

Questions/ directions

List any questions this work raises for you or things you want to follow up on. (1 mark)

- You should have something for every paper – it is basically impossible to read a paper and not have a single question or idea.

Writing

Correct spelling and grammar, written at a reasonable level, well-structured sentences. (2 marks)

- In each section, you are basically being assessed on how clearly the information comes across, so this is about the technical aspects of writing.

Deductions

- Over length (1 mark). Words over the limit are also not marked.
- Information in the wrong sections (1 mark)