

COMM 3410: Topical Journal Articles Analysis (Paper or Presentation)

For this assignment, determine an overall TOPIC concerning intercultural communication (the narrower the topic the better). Then research and find THREE SOURCES pertaining to the topic: at least two articles need to be from a peer-reviewed journal and another article from either a trade publication or another scholarly source. Your final assignment can be submitted as either a paper or as an in-class presentation. See the class syllabus for the due date on this assignment. Please plan to upload your paper or presentation notes to the corresponding dropbox on the class site before 11:59 p.m. of the due date.

Listed below are some items to consider when reading and writing or presenting the articles. Please do not simply go through each of the questions listed below and give a response. You may find that your topic or articles you are reviewing don't address every question, so you *do not need to answer every question* listed. However be as comprehensive as possible in your written review and application of the sources.

- **Preliminary Analysis of the Article:** What cultural phenomenon is being examined? What is the purpose of the study? Do the facts seem reliably and/or valid? Are assertions supported with the appropriate citations? Has relevant research been adequately reviewed? Are the hypotheses or thesis statement clearly stated, and do they flow logically from the information in the introduction? Does the research take an objective, interpretive or critical approach to the study of communication? Does the design of the study allow an adequate test of the hypotheses? Are there any methodological flaws that might affect the validity of the results?
- **Evaluate the Results and/or Discussion Sections:** What did the study find or uncover? Are the findings consistent with what you thought the research would find? Did the statistically significant effects support or refute the hypotheses? As for the trade publication article, can you tell if the author(s) did extra research to back-up their findings? Explain.
- **Assess the Discussion and/or Conclusion Sections:** Do the overall ideas and/or conclusions presented match the results reported? How well do the results mesh with items covered in our class readings, existing theory or other data/information? Does the author point the way to directions for future research to expand the discipline?
- **Lessons Learned:** How do the three articles overlap (or not) in their results/findings? How does the source change your thinking on the topic? What do you understand better now that you have read these articles? Let your analysis be well reasoned and objective. If you passionately disagree (or agree) with any of the authors, let your passion inspire you to new heights of thorough research and reasoned argument.

Again, DO NOT answer all of the above questions in a mechanical, check-box fashion, instead use them as a guideline to explain, expand and explore the topic being researched.

PAPER: Please type and double-space your paper, using 10-12 point typeface and 1-inch margins. Cite sources using APA style. There is no specified word count or paper length—simply follow the assignment and write an analysis of the sources (my motto for these kinds of written assignments: one page is not enough but 10 pages is too many). A good rule of guidance for writing college-level papers is a *minimum* of one page per required source where you explain, expand and explore the topic being researched, as well as a solid introduction and conclusion. Paper will be due to the class site on the date as noted on the class calendar.

PRESENTATION: You can opt to prepare a 7-10 minute presentation of the articles to share with the class. You should include some form of a visual element to your presentation (group exercise, class role playing, PowerPoint, handout). Students will still need to cover the above items and will be graded based on both the assignment rubric and overall presentation skills. Please be *creative* in your presentation and try not to simply offer an overview of the articles. Instead, really apply the analysis skills to report on and analyze the intercultural communication implications of the sources you reviewed. While there is no formal paper for the presentation option, please submit your presentation notes via the class site. Presentations will be given on the due date of the assignment as noted on the class calendar.