

Article-Dissection Worksheet

PSY 460 • Senior Research Seminar • Week 3 skill. One article, one page, eleven boxes.

Fill this in, in your own words, in your shared journal Doc under a new tab called Dissections — one copy per article. Read the article the three-pass way first; fill boxes 1–9 from the PDF alone; then run the notebook check (box 11) and log it in your AI log; write box 10 last. Quote the authors only in boxes 2 and 7, with page numbers. Label anything pasted. Two completed worksheets on your two strongest empirical sources are due before your meeting the week of September 28. Full guidance: coolpsychology.com/psy460/dissection.html

Box	Your answer (what goes here)
0 • Citation	Full APA 7 reference with DOI, then the PDF's filename in your references folder.
1 • The question	What did the authors want to know? One sentence, your words (usually the last paragraph of the Introduction).
2 • Hypotheses	As the authors stated them (quote, with page). Directional or not? Confirmed or not?
3 • Sample	N; who (age, population, country); how recruited; exclusions and final N.
4 • Design	Correlational, experimental, quasi-experimental, longitudinal, or qualitative. If experimental: what was manipulated, how many conditions, random assignment? If longitudinal: waves and spacing.
5 • Variables	Use the table below — one row per construct.
6 • Procedure	What a participant actually did, start to finish, in three sentences.
7 • Key findings	The main result as reported — test, statistic, p, effect size (with page) — then the same result in one plain-English sentence.
8 • Interpretation	What the authors say it means, and one alternative explanation they did not rule out.
9 • Limitations	The ones the authors name, then one they did not —

Box	Your answer (what goes here)
	sample, measure, design, or generalizability.
10 • So what, for my project	Which theme of my review it belongs to, and what it gives me: a measure, a finding to build on, a gap, a design.
11 • Notebook check	Question(s) asked of my capstone notebook; what it surfaced that I missed; the page where I then found it in the PDF. Logged in the AI log.

Box 5 • Variables

Role is IV / predictor, DV / outcome, moderator, mediator, or covariate. Operational definition is the instrument or manipulation: name, number of items, response scale, reliability if reported (α).

Construct	Role	Operational definition (instrument / manipulation, items, scale, α)

What complete looks like

Every box filled, in your words; boxes 2 and 7 carry page numbers; box 5 has a row for every construct in your own research question that the article touches, and a note naming the ones it does not; box 7 has a real statistic, not “a significant relationship”; box 9 has one limitation the authors did not write down; box 11 shows you checked your work against the notebook and went back to the source. A systematic review or meta-analysis cannot be dissected this way — save those for the Week 4 synthesis matrix.