**Activity 12A: Peer-Review (Model A)**

**Purpose of this assignment:** The goals of this assignment are (1) to provide your peer(s) with constructive feedback on their writing that will help them improve their papers and (2) to encourage you to reflect on your own writing.

**How does it fit within the entire project?** The process of scholarly publication involves peer-reviews. As such, the peer-review you are performing here is akin to the work asked of professional academics. The peer-review process is critical to assessing the quality of the research work, the modifications necessary to it, and the advancement of the scholarly dialogue. The peer-reviews you receive will directly enable you to improve your paper and those you provide will help you reflect on your own writing, thus indirectly leading to improvements in your paper.

**Tasks required:**

* Critically read the [paper] of your [classmate].
* Answer the questions below with complete sentences. Do not simply write yes or no. Explain every “no” answer and support your argument. Provide information on how each element of the paper could yet be improved when answering “yes”
* Remember to be constructive and acknowledge positive points.

**Deliverable:** Completed copy of this handout uploaded on [LMS] by [due date].

**Estimated time:** About [xxxx]

**Group work or individual work?** Individual work.

**Notes to instructor:**

* Try to provide every student/group of students with two or three peer-reviews.
* The framework presented here can be truncated to enable peer-reviews at earlier stages of the CURE.
* Iterative reviews can be associated with additional peer-review elements such as: “Did the revisions incorporate your feedback? If not, what are they yet to implement?”
* Consider sharing with students examples of constructive and respectful peer-reviews (of your own work or other students’ work following ethical guidelines) that can act as models for the work they are expected to produce.

**Step-by-step:**

1. Please summarize the paper (less than 200 words): *In other words, write an abstract for it*
2. Highlight here three things that were done well in this paper
3. Highlight here three things that need to be revised for the final version of this paper
4. Answer the questions below in the table provided.

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| --- |
| **General issues** |
| Is the writing appropriate for an academic paper? |
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| Is the paper appropriately formatted? |
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| Are the paper and its different sections of appropriate length?  |
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| Are the paper and its different sections clearly organized following the structure of [scientific] publications? |
|  |
| Is the paper free of writing, spelling, and grammatical errors that impact its understanding? |
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| **Material and Methods** |
| Are the methods appropriate, given the research question? |
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| Are the data used appropriate (including sample size, variables measured, sampling across categories, etc.)? |
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| Are predictions derived from the hypothesis (-es) laid out? |
|  |
| Are all analyses undertaken described with sufficient detail to enable another researcher to repeat the work? |
|  |
| Does the paper repeat standard procedures that all scholars know how to do? |
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| **Results** |
| Are the results thoroughly presented?  |
|  |
| Does the text reference the figures and tables? |
|  |
| Is the interpretation clearly excluded from the results section? |
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|  |
| **Discussion** |
| Does the paper skillfully interpret the results? Is the data interpretation appropriate, accurate, and unbiased? |
|  |
| Does the paper provide a thoughtful and thorough discussion of possible future studies or alternative approaches? |
|  |
| Does the paper provide an insightful explanation of the reasons underlying the pattern in the data? |
|  |
| Is there a compelling discussion of the implications of findings? |
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| Does the paper explicitly interpret the results in relation to the hypothesis (-es)? |
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| Does the paper discuss inconsistencies, uncertainties, or limitations of the results? |
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| Are the findings compared to those published in prior research or put into contest (as appropriate)? |
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| **References** |
| Are the citations presented consistently and professionally throughout the text and in the list of works cited? |
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| **Figures and Tables** |
| Are the tables and figures clear, effective, appropriate, and informative? |
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| Are the figures and tables accompanied by brief but adequate captions? |
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| Do the figures and tables each have adequate labels (including legends and axes' labels)? |
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| Are the figures and tables numbered and cited within the text? |
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| Are the tables properly formatted with no vertical lines and no unnecessary formatting? |
|  |
| Is the text on the figures large enough to be read? |
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| Is the format of the graphics appropriate for the data represented? |
|  |
| Are the figures informative and relevant to the paper? |
|  |
| Do all captions start with the appropriate figure number? |
|  |
| Is the caption informative? |
|  |
| Are all elements of the figure appropriately explained? |
|  |
| Are all abbreviations used in the image provided in the caption? |
|  |
| Does each caption follow the required format? |
|  |

1. Write below a bullet point list including six elements of your paper you will revise in light of your reading of your classmate(s) paper. For each of them, provide details about the change you will make and the rationale for that change.