Assignment 1

Convincing you with Science: The powerful Persuasion of science in the media

We are presented with ideas or arguments 'all-the-time' by friends, teachers, textbooks, and of course…, the media. These sources are trying to convince you of something, and it's up to you to decide if you agree with it (or not)!

We are going to dive into some neuroscience related media articles: These topics provide 'accessible' and interesting entry points to each topic.

The goal of this assignment is to explore common interpretations of neuroscience research. As a part of critical reading, It is important for you to summarize *what* an argument is 'saying' and *how* they are presenting evidence to support these claims.There are also broader goals of this assignment that are also transferable to other course contexts, including;

- writing a summary of evidence used to support the main premises of an argument.
- your ability to identify research and the original sources of information.
- Use of APA formatting (this will be essential in 3rd year PSY courses!).

I encourage you to seek writing support during **writing drop-in session** at the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre. Our writing experts can support how you structure **ideas**, **communicate** clearly, and **present knowledge** in an effective way. For specific availability throughout the week, please visit: https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/drop-in-appointments.

Monday 11:30am -1:30pm
Wednesday 1:30-3:30pm
Thursday 1:30pm-4:30pm

Start by choosing one of the following articles:

Choose one of the following media articles (see selections below) related to neuroscience research.

How Meditation Affects our Brains
https://blog.bufferapp.com/how-meditation-affects-your-brain

-or-

How Exercise Boosts Your Brainpower
http://www.active.com/fitness/articles/how-exercise-boosts-your-brainpower

Part I - Article Summary

Write a brief summary of the article (**should be around 1 page**) that:

- **States** the main premise of the article.
- **Summarizes / Highlights** 4 pieces of evidence (i.e., research studies) that are being used to support the main premise (e.g. stress is shrinking your brain or exercise is boosting your brain power).

Part II - Literature Search

Seek out the 'original' sources of information for the 4 pieces of evidence that you described above. That means that you need to do some detective work to narrow in on what the paper might by Looking at clues within the text to provide you with information such as; *author names, research institution, journal title, who / what was studies, research results, or any other fact that might lead you to the originally published research.*

For each piece of evidence, I want you to:

1. Copy and paste the original text from the media assignment into your assignment (use quotes and cite the author of the work in each instance).
2. Identify the original source of information
3. Provide a statement of justification to indicate what 'clues' you used from the media passage to help your search and how they match to the original source of information.
4. Provide a properly formatted APA bibliographic citation for the original article. We'll talk about this in class over the next couple of weeks following these guidelines:
   > **Basic rules**: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/
   > **Journal citation examples**: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/
5. Go back to your Article Summary (Part 1) and add in the appropriate in-text citation to that piece of evidence using the following rules:
   > **in-text citations**: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/

Repeat this process for all 4 pieces of evidence that you have identified. This section does not need to be written using formal paragraph structure, but do try to communicate your statement of justification using complete sentences.

Formatting your assignment using APA style guidelines:

Using APA formatting will be expected in your level 3 and 4 psychology courses. I would like you to adopt the following APA guidelines for this assignment, and you will be assessed on your ability to do so. You will only be assess you on the following:

- Font: **12-point,** Times (or similar), double spaced
- Remember**:** Always be **precise, and goal oriented** in your writing.

- **Provide an APA formatted title page**. Use the instructions for creating your title page from the following link: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/. Please see the written and visual descriptions provided.

- Include a **page header and page number** (also known as the "running head") at the top of every page. See: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

  - Insert page numbers flush right at top of page (all pages).

  - Type 'an abbreviated title of your paper' in the header flush left (all pages). The running head is a shortened version of your paper's title and cannot exceed 50 characters including spacing and punctuation.

- **In-text citations and reference list**.
  - Use the following instructions to help guide your creation of in-text citations (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/

  - Use the following instructions to create your **reference list:**
    - Basic Rules: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/
    - single / multiple authors: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/
    - Journal Article: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/
    - On-line 'Non-periodical' report: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/

Submitting your paper:

Please read carefully as this will help ease the grading process and reduce confusions.

- **Name** Your files**:**
    - PLEASE name files using the first 3 letters of your last name and the last 3 digits of your student ID. For example, if I were to hand in an assignment, I would name my assignment "**Bes233**" as **Bes**ton is my last name and **233** is the last 3 digits of my undergrad student ID! I don't mind if you add anything after that, like "**Bes233 Assignment1.pdf**.

    - Following this procedure will streamline the process of grading your papers.

- **Where / When to submit** Your files**:**
    OPTIONAL SUBMISSION - You can earn Course Engagement Credit (CEC, 2%) by peer reviewing the work of 2 other students. To participate in this process, you MUST upload a copy of your work to PeerScholar (link found in assignment folder) **by MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25th at 9am**. You will then be assigned to review two other pieces of work and you will be given until Tuesday at 5pm to complete your reviews.

    MANDATORY SUBMISSION - Your assignment should be **uploaded to PORTAL** This process works in conjunction with Turnitin.com and makes the process of submitting assignments a little easier. **Due: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25th at 9am**

How you will be assessed.

Assignment be assessed on the following criteria:

1. How well key research is **identified** in the media article.
2. A demonstration of **understanding** the content / evidence presented.
3. How evidence **contributes** to the main premise presented in the article
4. Clear expression of **ideas, including vocabulary, terminology and conventions**
5. Appropriate use of **APA formatting** throughout.

Items will be assessed using an 8 point scale of your ability to demonstrate these elements.

Asessment	0	4	6	8
How well key research is **identified** in the media article.	Fails to identity original sources.	2 original sources correctly identified.	3 original sources correctly identified.	4 original sources are correctly identified.
Presentation of media premise and how it is supported by evidence provided.	**Fails** to identify main premise or present any evidence related to topic.	Main premise **present**. Supporting pieces of evidence **present (may or may not be 4). lacking understanding** of how evidence supports premise.	Main premise **present**. 4 Supporting pieces of evidence **present.** to describe how evidence supports premise is present, but **could be improved upon.**	**Clearly** demonstrates an understanding of main premise and how 4 related pieces of evidence support main premise.
demonstration of understanding content / evidence presented.	**Fails to** demonstrate content / evidence presented.	**Poor** demonstration of content / evidence presented in one or more aspects of evidence presented.	**Good** demonstration of content / evidence presented. May exclude relevant details, or include less relevant details.	**Excellent** demonstration of content / evidence.

Asessment	0	2	3	4
Clear expression of **ideas, including vocabulary, terminology and conventions**	Significant difficulties present that limits reader's comprehension.	Further revisions would improve the expression of ideas and improve readability.	**Minor** error in one or more areas, but limited impact on readability. Minor corrections could be recommended.	Well written and clearly expressed.
APA formatting	**Fails** to use APA formatting.	Inconsistent application of APA guidelines.	Some minor errors in APA formatting.	Good use of APA formatting throughout.