

How to Critique Journal Articles in the Social Sciences

Scott R. Harris

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Scott R. Harris : How to Critique Journal Articles in the Social Sciences before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Critique Journal Articles in the Social Sciences:

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to read. Most of the exercises are quite well designed - they're tough, and I learn a lot through doing them. The bad: The author's voice can be very condescending. Also, some of the suggested exercises would have you literally berating your friends and pointing out to them that they are not experts on the topics they are discussing. Overall: It's like that obnoxious friend you keep because they give good advice. If you can get past the bad, there's good stuff there.

How to Critique Journal Articles in the Social Sciences, by Scott R. Harris, is a brief, introductory book that provides readers with a step-by-step guide to reading and understanding a social science research article. The author demonstrates the many strengths of social research, including its advantages over ordinary ways of knowing things, and, at the same time, points out that research is inevitably flawed. Rather than naively assuming that good research simply produces "The Truth" or cynically asserting that research is hopelessly biased and futile, this book instills in readers a critical perspective one that appreciates the strengths and weaknesses of any piece of scholarship.

"[The book] provides an accessible introduction to thinking about the place of peer-reviewed research by scaffolding student's learning on to what they already know from personal opinion, newspapers and websites."--Alex Bowers "The author does a fantastic job of simplifying complex concepts and jargons so the lay person can understand them."--Osabuohien Amienyi "It is readable and comprehensive and helps students understand the main way researchers and academics write and think about knowledge and research."--Kevin Borders "The one main theme that I liked as I read the book is how the author took a real-world approach to research and using evidenced-based sources while incorporating critical thinking skills and reflection."--Brian Christenson "The breezy tone and appropriate use of examples throughout the text make this an unusually accessible and useful text for students. I don't know of another resource that addresses this topic as well for LIS students."--Chad Morgan "This brief, introductory book provides readers with a step-by-step guide to reading and understanding a social science research article. The author demonstrates the many strengths of social research, including its advantages over ordinary ways of knowing things, and, at the same time, points out that research is inevitably flawed. Rather than naively assuming that good research simply produces "The Truth" or cynically asserting that research is hopelessly biased and futile, this book instills in readers a critical perspective--one that appreciates the strengths and weaknesses of any piece of scholarship."--SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY-[The book] provides an accessible introduction to thinking about the place of peer-reviewed research by scaffolding student's learning on to what they already know from personal opinion, newspapers and websites.---Alex Bowers-The author does a fantastic job of simplifying complex concepts and jargons so the lay person can understand them.---Osabuohien Amienyi-It is readable and comprehensive and helps students understand the main way researchers and academics write and think about knowledge and research.---Kevin Borders-The one main theme that I liked as I read the book is how the author took a real-world approach to research and using evidenced-based sources while incorporating critical thinking skills and reflection.---Brian Christenson-The breezy tone and appropriate use of examples throughout the text make this an unusually accessible and useful text for students. I don't know of another resource that addresses this topic as well for LIS students.---Chad Morgan "[The book] provides an accessible introduction to thinking about the place of peer-reviewed research by scaffolding students learning on to what they already know from personal opinion, newspapers and websites." (Alex Bowers) "The author does a fantastic job of simplifying complex concepts and jargons so the lay person can understand them." (Osabuohien Amienyi) "It is readable and comprehensive and helps students understand the main way researchers and academics write and think about knowledge and research." (Kevin Borders) "The one main theme that I liked as I read the book is how the author took a real-world approach to research and using evidenced-based sources while incorporating critical thinking skills and reflection." (Brian Christenson) "The breezy tone and appropriate use of examples throughout the text make this an unusually accessible and useful text for students. I don't know of another resource that addresses this topic as well for LIS students." (Chad Morgan) About the Author Scott R. Harris (Ph.D., University of Oregon) is Professor of Sociology at Saint Louis University, where he teaches courses on Emotions, Family, Research Methods, Social Psychology, and Contemporary Theory. He is the author of two books on conceptualization and measurement: *What Is Constructionism?* (which received the Cooley Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction) and *The Meanings of Marital Equality*. He also co-edited *Making Sense of Social Problems* (with Joel Best) and co-authored *Stargazing: Celebrity, Fame, and Social Interaction* (with Kerry Ferris). He has reviewed articles for numerous journals and edited a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. Currently he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Sociology Compass*.