

## IMPROVE THE TEXTBOOK!

A lot of good research never makes it into a textbook, even though it's relevant to one of the topics covered in the text.

Here's how you can help to improve the textbook, improve your knowledge, and improve your skills conducting a literature review:

1. Identify a major topic covered in the textbook. For example, "The Confirmation Bias" (Chapter 10) or "What Causes Group Polarization?" (Chapter 14) are major topics. (*Hint*: when they're mentioned in your text, major topics are printed in dark blue.)
2. Find three closely related research articles on your chosen topic. How do you know if they're "closely related"? At the very least, closely related articles cite one another. For example, both Paper B and Paper C cite Paper A, and Paper B and Paper C cite an article that is cited in Paper A.
3. Describe what each of these three articles tell us about the chosen topic.
4. Tell me one thing you'd like to know about the topic you chose, but was not covered in the textbook or the three articles you chose.

Easy, right? Not so fast. Here are the rules:

1. The article must report an *experiment* (see pp. 31-32 if you're not sure what that is).
2. The article can't already be mentioned in the section you're writing about (e.g., in "What Causes Group Polarization?", the authors already mention an article by Keltner & Robinson, so that particular article is out-of-bounds).
3. The article must have been published in the list of Approved Journals (see below). If you believe that you've found The Perfect Experiment, but it's published in an unapproved journal, let me know, and I'll consider an exception. Just so you know, articles you found on the web (like a blog) or an article from a popular magazine (like *Newsweek*) are out-of-bounds too.

So what are you supposed to turn in? Here's what—

- The name of the topic you've chosen, where it appears in the textbook (page numbers), and a diagram of which papers cite which.
- A 2-3 page summary of the experiments. Briefly describe how the experiments are related to the topic you've chosen, what happened in the experiments, what the major findings were, and how these findings modify or extend what the textbook tells us about the topic.
- One or two paragraphs describing what you would like to know about the topic you've chosen but could not find in the textbook or your three articles.
- Full bibliographic information on the three articles (in APA Style), with a photocopy of each article.

## APPROVED JOURNALS

*Behavioral Neuroscience*  
*Child Development*  
*Cognition*  
*Cognition and Emotion*  
*Cognition and Instruction*  
*Cognitive Development*  
*Cognitive Psychology*  
*Cognitive Science*  
*Developmental Psychology*  
*Developmental Science*  
*Emotion*  
*Health Psychology*  
*Journal of Abnormal Psychology*  
*Journal of Comparative Psychology*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*  
*Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*  
*Journal of Neuroscience*  
*Journal of Personality*  
*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*  
*Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*  
*Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*  
*Psychological Methods*  
*Psychological Science*  
*Psychology and Aging*  
*Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*