Final Paper

The purpose of the final paper is to facilitate your understanding of the material. Paper will be evaluated based on content, grammar & mechanics, as well as adherence to assignment instructions with respect to format & structure.

Instructions:

Write a 6-8 page long paper based on at least two peer-reviewed journal articles published in the past five years that report research findings related to dispute analysis and resolution. Remember, adhere to APA guidelines for paper formatting and citing & referencing.

Your paper should consist of two parts: 1) observations; 2) connections.

- Observations should include a summary of the articles and your appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the article.
- Connections should include your explanation of how your article relates to at least four theories and/or topics covered within the course readings, providing specific examples from the articles and the course texts to illustrate those connections.

Final Paper Rubric: 20 Points

1. Paper consist of two parts: 1) observation; 2) connection.
2. Observations part includes a summary of the articles.
3. Observations part includes your appraisal of the strengths of the articles (See some suggestions on the next page).
4. Observations part includes your appraisal of the weaknesses of the articles.
5. Connections include your explanation of how your article relates to at least four theories and/or topics covered within the course readings, providing specific examples from the articles and the course texts to illustrate those connections.
6. Paper has a cover page with title, authors, course, and date of submission.
7. Paper is well-organized, with clear headings and logical flow.
8. Paper is well-written, free of grammatical and spelling mistakes. (none = 2 points, 1-5 mistakes = 1 point, more than 5 = 0 points)
9. Paper has a conclusion summarizing the key points.
10. All citations and references are in APA style.

Each of the above will be graded the following way:
Complete = 2 points
Partial = 1 point
Missing = 0 points
No matter whether your article is research or non-research, consider the following:

Was the article fluent and easy to read?
Why was the information important or not important to you?
Can the information be used in a practical way?
Do you agree with the major points and premises?
What is one idea that impressed you?
Is there anything that you are concerned about in the article?
Is there something that you would be interested in pursuing further?

Suggestions for Article Critical Appraisal: Research Based Articles
Consider the following:

1. The Problem
   - Is the problem clearly stated?
   - Is the problem practically important?
   - What is the purpose of the study?
   - What is the hypothesis?
   - Are the key terms defined?

2. Review of Literature
   - Are the cited sources pertinent to the study?
   - Is the review too broad or too narrow?
   - Are the references recent?
   - Is there any evidence of bias?

3. Design and procedures
   - What research methodology was used?
   - Was it a replica study or an original study?
   - What measurement tools were used?
   - How were the procedures structured?
   - Was a pilot study conducted?
   - What are the variables?
   - How was sampling performed?

4. Data Analysis and presentation
   - How was data analyzed?
   - Was data qualitative or quantitative?
   - Did findings support the hypothesis and purpose?
   - Were weaknesses and problems discussed?

5. Conclusions and Implications
   - Are the conclusions of the study related to the original purpose?
   - Were the implications discussed?
   - Whom the results and conclusions will effect?
   - What recommendations were made at the conclusion?

Suggestions for Article Critical Appraisal: Non-Research Based Articles
For a non-research article, consider the following in your critical appraisal:

How would you characterize this article? (practical, philosophical, a review, description of a program or curriculum, educational)
Describe the central program, concept, or theme of the article.
Describe any supporting concepts or themes.
Define the author’s purpose in writing the article.
Discuss the author’s perspective and any other perspectives mentioned.
Provide key ideas defined in the article.
Tell what the author does to get the major points across?
Did the author cite theories, models, or approaches?
Did the author present strengths and weaknesses?
Did the author provide recommendations and/or criticisms?