

Exposure to Psychological Science: Using Empirical Journal Articles in Courses of All Levels

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Abstract

An issue facing instructors of psychology courses, especially those courses at an introductory level, is getting students to understand that psychology is a science where scientific methods are employed to gain knowledge in the field. Further, students in these courses often have limited exposure to primary empirical sources in the field and struggle to understand these sources when assigned to read them or use them to conduct a literature review. Yet, exposure to these primary sources would aid in exposing students to scientific study in psychology and help them understand how researchers gain knowledge about behavior.

In this workshop, we will explore the benefits and constraints of using empirical journal articles in psychology courses at all levels. I will demonstrate some ways I have included these sources in teaching courses from introductory psychology through advanced undergraduate courses in specific topic areas. Based on these demonstrations, participants will have the opportunity to create materials for their courses using empirical journal articles from any area of psychology. A sample of exercises using empirical articles and a list of empirical articles from different areas of psychology that are amenable to these exercises will be provided.