**Assignment 4: Reviewing the Research Structure**

of an academic, peer-reviewed[[1]](#footnote-1) article in *The Canadian Geographer*

Individual assignment (**15%** of the final grade)

Format accepted: Word document

Submission to the eCentennial **Assignment** dropbox

Deadline**: Sunday, July 26th, at 11:59 p.m.**

In this assignment, you will review the structure of a research article (and this way, of a research study) by responding to a series of questions. Below is a selection of articles that appeared in the academic peer-reviewed journal, *The Canadian Geographer*. These articles expand beyond the field of geography and their approach is interdisciplinary in nature.

Selected Articles (all available on-line through the Centennial College Library website)

1. Harrington, D. W., Wilson, K., Elliott, S. J., & Clarke, A. E. (2013). Diagnosis and treatment of food allergies in off-reserve Aboriginal children in Canada. *Canadian Geographer*, *57*(4), 431-440. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12032.x
2. Newbold, K. B., & Scott, D. (2013). Migration, commuting distance, and urban sustainability in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe: Implications of the Greenbelt and Places to Grow legislation. *Canadian Geographer*, *57*(4), 474-487. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12044.x
3. Northcott, H. C., & Petruik, C. R. (2013). Trends in the residential mobility of seniors in Canada, 1961-2006. *Canadian Geographer*, *57*(1), 43-55. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00449.x
4. Ray, B., & Preston, V. (2013). Experiences of discrimination and discomfort: A comparison of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations. *Canadian Geographer*, *57*(2), 233-254. doi:10.1111/cag.12026
5. Tam, B. Y., Gough, W. A., Edwards, V., & Tsuji, L. S. (2013). The impact of climate change on the well-being and lifestyle of a First Nation community in the western James Bay region. *Canadian Geographer*, *57*(4), 441-456. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12033.x

Select **one article** that is of interest to you and answer the 10 questions in the table below. This way you will review and discuss the structure of the research and the methodologies used. Some of the questions will ask you to go beyond identifying information in the text or summarizing, to give an opinion and take a critical position on the ideas. And by critical, I mean to use skillful judgment regarding truth or merit, not necessarily find fault in something. If available, identify the location of the sources of the answer, by listing the page(s) and column(s) where they appeared in the article. Answer each of the questions in 4-5 sentences (5 points for each question).

Even though the ideas are from the article and your answers would naturally follow closely the content of the article, you must go beyond locating the information in the text and copying it in the appropriate spot in place of an answer; you must summarize, synthesize and express the ideas in your own words to demonstrate your understanding not just that you located the information in the article; at the other extreme, replacing key words with synonyms just for the sake of giving the appearance of paraphrasing will likely backfire and only show that you did not put the ideas through the filter of your own understanding and instead just tried to regurgitate something you picked up from the article.

Please ensure that your answers are clear and adhere to the required lengths. Answers that are too short or much too long will not receive full points. Also, points will be deducted for spelling and grammar mistakes.

Before submitting your file, remove from it the instructions, keeping only the table with your answers.

| Full Citation of the chosen article: … | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Questions (5 pts. each) | Answers **(in your own words)** | Pg./Col[[2]](#endnote-1) |
| 1. Why[[3]](#endnote-2) did the authors conduct this study? |  |  |
| 1. What are the research questions? |  |  |
| 1. How did the authors conduct this study[[4]](#endnote-3)? |  |  |
| 1. What data/results[[5]](#endnote-4) emerged from this study? |  |  |
| 1. In your opinion, are the data collected appropriate[[6]](#endnote-5) to answer the research question? |  |  |
| 1. Are there illustrations[[7]](#endnote-6)? If yes, do they facilitate the understanding of the material? If no, suggest illustrations that would facilitate the understanding of the material |  |  |
| 1. What do the authors conclude? |  |  |
| 1. In your opinion[[8]](#endnote-7), do the data support the conclusions? |  |  |
| 1. What is the significance[[9]](#endnote-8) of these findings[[10]](#endnote-9)? |  |  |
| 1. In your opinion, has this research and its finding made a significant or important contribution[[11]](#endnote-10) to understanding[[12]](#endnote-11) the larger or more general issue? |  |  |

1. Newspaper articles or web articles are not accepted, nor articles for outside the Centennial College Library. You must filter appropriately when you search (i.e. peer reviewed and scholarly). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Indicate the page and, where applicable, column in the article where you found the answer to the question or the ideas that support your opinion (e.g. *p. 3/c. 2*) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. The motivation of the study – not the research question itself, but the reason why the researchers want to find the answer to the research question. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
4. What was done to find the answer to the research questions? For instance, if applicable, briefly describe data collection and analysis. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
5. The research results are the answers to the research question(s). For instance, if the researcher wanted to find out ‘why?’, then the research result should be ‘… because…‘; if the researcher wanted to find out ‘how much?’ or ‘how many?’ or ‘what percentage?’, then the research result should be a number(s) or set(s) of numbers answering those questions. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
6. A *yes* or *no* answer is no acceptable – explain your reasoning. What aspects are important? You should be able to answer this question before even reading the conclusions of the research report, just thinking about the research questions the authors are trying to answer. Think about what data is collected and how. E.g. if the data was collected through a survey, were the right people asked? Were the right questions asked? [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
7. You can consider anything that is not text an illustration, including maps and data tables. Give examples to show how the illustration clarifies or illustrates an idea or conclusion found in the text. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
8. Again, do not limit your answer to a *yes* or a *no*. Justify your opinion or give examples to explain why you have that opinion. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
9. Try not to give a vague answer. Put your finger on it. Why is this research and its results significant? How does it help? This should be related to the reason the research was conducted in the first place, but it goes beyond the immediate use of the results. Regarding the significance, think big, in terms of impact for the society, industries, fields etc. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
10. Don’t confuse findings with data collected. The findings are the results of the research. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
11. The contribution goes beyond the research question. Like a piece in a bigger puzzle. Which bigger puzzle do the results of this research help clarify. What bigger issue does this research help solve? Or what bigger or more important question does this raise or clarify? Be specific, name the issue. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
12. This is not about your personal understanding, and how the study helps you understand the topic. It is about our general knowledge, and how this research helps clarify aspects we didn’t know before. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)