

Assignment: Article report

The **goal** of the article report is to give you an opportunity to: (a) practice identifying the key elements of a published phonetics experiment; (b) think critically about that experiment; and (c) find ideas to help you plan your final project. **Choose an article that looks at a language, a phenomenon, and/or a research technique that you are considering for your final project proposal.** This is a partner-group assignment.

- The **article proposal** is due **M Nov 3, 11:59pm** in Canvas “Assignments” (5 points)
- The **article report** is due **F Nov 7, 11:59pm** in Canvas “Assignments” (15 points)

(1) Choose a published experiment to report on

- Find an article that reports on **acoustic data** (NOT ultrasound or MRI data!) from a **production experiment** (NOT a perception experiment!)
 - the ***speech*** of one or more participants ***is recorded***
 - ***acoustic*** analysis is carried out: formant values, VOT, segment duration, f_0 , etc.
- The article must describe its **methodology** in enough **detail** that another researcher could set up a closely comparable experiment. The **experiment conditions** are explicitly described and distinguished, and at least representative example **stimuli** (if not all stimuli!) are reported. Ideally, **measurement criteria** are also explicitly stated; if not, you may have to find a second article later to help you determine your own measurement criteria.
- The article must be **published**, which means that it must have a ***bibliographic citation***, although this may be an online-only journal or conference proceedings. (Watch out for ICPhS articles, which may be too short to work with. Avoid using a BA or MA thesis or a PhD dissertation unless you check with me first.)
- The article may present a single experiment or many experiments, but your article report only needs to focus on **one of the experiments**. Discussing two or more closely-related experiments is also fine, especially if this is helpful for your project.

To get started finding relevant journals (for browsing through recent issues) or article databases (for finding articles on specific topics), try the resources linked at the bottom of the “[Final project information and resources](#)” web page on the course web site.

Article proposals are due M Nov 3 by 11:59pm—submit PDF as Canvas “Assignment”

Proposal

consists of:

- The full bibliographic **citation** of the article [[citation format](#)]
- A link to the **article** (use DOI if possible)
- A brief **description** of the experiment(s) your report will focus on: What **language sounds** are studied? What **properties** are measured?
- A brief explanation of how this experiment is related to your **project topic**

(2) Analyze the structure of the experiment that you have chosen

Your report should be **in your own words**, except for short quotations if necessary (indicate these with quotation marks or block-quote indentations). In your discussion, show me that you understood the article! Please **write your own prose**, without using generative AI (like ChatGPT, Claude, or Copilot). This assignment is designed to give you practice understanding and explaining the structure of an experiment, and you will not get this practice if you ask an AI app for a summary.

Here are **points to focus on** in the article report.

- What are the **big-picture** and **measurable** research questions?
- Explain, and give examples of, the **stimuli** and the different **conditions** in the experiment. Remember to *relate* them to the research questions.
- What **measurement techniques** were used? What **measurement landmarks** were used?
- What **results** were found? What does the author think the results show? (Do you agree?)

Generally speaking, show me that you understand how the materials and procedure (recording, measurement criteria, etc.) **are connected to** the research questions.

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