Information Literacy Learning Outcome this assignment addresses:
Uses Information Effectively

This assignment reinforces how to identify elements of a scholarly text and how to work responsibly with that text.

Objectives of assignment:
- Students will be able to read the text of a scholarly article and select main ideas.
- Students will become proficient in restating textual concepts in their own words.
- Students will recognize what pieces of information support the major concepts of an article, and where to find them.

Process: The instructor will give a demonstration of the assignment for the students before they attempt it themselves using a different scholarly article.
- The instructor should have a pre-selected scholarly article to use as a demonstration and one for the students to use for the assignment, preferably with relatively lengthy/wordy titles.
- Using one article, the instructor will begin to demonstrate the assignment by highlighting the major concepts in the article that appear in the abstract, and assigning a number to each.
- The instructor will find, within the body of the article, information that correlates to the major concepts found within the abstract, and number the information accordingly.
- Once the whole article has been covered, the instructor will ask how well the title fits the rest of the work based on the major concepts represented.
- The instructor will compare the difference in weight of information between the title, abstract, and body of the scholarly article.

Assignment:
1. Students should split into small groups, all of which will receive a copy of the second pre-selected article.
2. Each group will read through the article selecting the major concepts found in the abstract, and then find them within the body of the article.
3. Each group will relay the number of major concepts from the abstract they were able to identify with the body of the article, and how well they believe the title represents the major concepts.
4. Each group will paraphrase one of the article’s major concepts with reference to the section of text the group is paraphrasing.
5. Groups should compare the number of sections representing major concepts in the abstract, body, and title to demonstrate the difference in the weight of information supplied by each.

Important summation/review points: By comparing the information weight of the title, abstract, and body elements, students will become aware that:
- A title may only be a partial representation of the article contents.
- Abstracts present the major concepts in scholarly articles.
- The body of a scholarly article is the main source of information and is briefly represented by the abstract; it is the support for all claims made and concepts outlines in the abstract.
- Although paraphrasing is difficult, it can help you understand the concepts in a scholarly article.
- Students become familiar with the format of the information communication modes of scholarly literature.