

**UGA Speech Communication Research Participation:  
Information for Students**

Questions? Contact your course instructor.

Your class may require to you satisfy a departmental research requirement or may offer the opportunity to participate in research for extra credit. Failure to fulfill the research requirement results in a grade of Incomplete (I). Note: You will need to complete a **separate** research project or paper for each Speech Communication class that requires or offers research participation. You may choose to do one of the following options.

**OPTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN A SPEECH COMMUNICATION RESEARCH STUDY**

The Speech Communication Department regards your participation in studies as an educational experience. The participation of students is appreciated and essential to the research of the Department of Speech Communication. The research contributions made by the students are a lasting part of the body of social scientific knowledge about communication.

**GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPTION:**

**Step 1: Sign-Up For One of the Studies Posted on the “Research Opportunities” Bulletin Board in Terrell Hall**

Guidelines:

- a. You may choose the study in which you wish to participate.
- b. When signing up for a study, please note what time you chose to participate, what will be expected of you, and the approximate amount of time the study will take to complete. Also, be sure to leave your phone number or email address so the researcher can contact you if he or she needs to reschedule.

**Step 2: Participate in a Study**

Guidelines:

- a. It is your responsibility to show up at the designated time and location. If it is necessary for you to miss an appointment because of illness or an emergency, please call the phone number listed on the sign-up sheet.
- b. When you show up for the study, please **sign in** using both your name and your instructor’s name. We need both your name and your instructor’s name to ensure you receive credit.
- c. Make sure that you keep a copy of the consent form from the study; this is **your proof of participation**.
- d. If for some reason you do not receive credit later for participating in a study, notify your instructor and ask him/her to check with the researcher. The researcher keeps a copy of the sign-in sheet that you signed and also the list of participants that were given to the instructor. He/she has the responsibility to double check and find out whether you participated.
- e. Research must be completed **before the beginning of final exams week**.

## OPTION 2: COMMUNICATION ARTICLE SUMMARY

This option is designed primarily for students who are not able or do not wish to participate in speech communication research studies. You must adhere to the following guidelines carefully; shoddy work will not be accepted. **Note: Any paper that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from a research article (or from another student) is not acceptable.** This is plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense. Both your instructor and the research pool coordinator will check to make sure that your work is original.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY OPTION:**

#### **Step 1: Select an article from one of the following journals:**

*Communication Quarterly*

*Communication Research Reports*

*Southern Communication Journal*

*Communication Reports*

*Communication Studies*

*Western Journal of Communication*

Guidelines:

- a. The article must have been published **within the last year**. **Note: It is your responsibility to locate a hard copy of the journal in the library (check in the current periodicals section first).**
- b. The article must describe a research study (hint: look for headings such as "Method," and "Results")
- c. Check with your instructor to make sure the article is one that is suitable before you write your paper.

#### **Step 2: Write a 2-Page Summary and Analysis of the Article**

Guidelines:

- a. Your summary and analysis of the article should be 2 pages. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have read and have understood the research article. It should be partly a summary and an astute description of what you learned from the article. Papers that contain simple phrases like "I didn't like the article" or "it didn't make much sense" will be not be accepted for credit. You need to critically evaluate the material. The paper should contain at least two full pages of text.
- b. Include a title page for the paper that includes the following:
  1. Your name
  2. Your instructor's name & class time
  3. The title of the article you read and the author of the article
  4. The name of the journal
  5. The date and/or volume number of the journal
  6. The page numbers of the article
- c. A photocopy of the article stapled to the back of your paper.
- d. The paper must be typed and double-spaced. You must use a standard 12 point font size. Failure to heed these guidelines will result in the paper not being accepted for credit.

#### **Step 3: Turn In Your Paper**

Guideline:

Submit your paper to your instructor **before final** exam week. Any papers turned in during final exam week will not be accepted for credit, nor will any unacceptable papers receive credit.

### **OPTION 3: PARTICIPATION IN A SPEECH COMMUNICATION COLLOQUIUM**

This option is also designed primarily for students who are not able or do not wish to participate in speech communication research studies. A colloquium is similar to a speech; each speaker takes about 1 hour and talks about his or her most recent communication research. In addition to attending the colloquium, you must write a 2-page summary of the talk in order to receive course credit. **Note: Any paper that is entirely or partly copied from another student is not acceptable.** This is plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense. Both your instructor and the research pool coordinator will check to make sure that your work is original.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLOQUIUM OPTION:**

##### **Step 1: Select a Speech Communication Colloquium To Attend**

Guideline:

The colloquium schedule is posted in the department; your instructor may also notify you of upcoming colloquia. Most of the colloquia take place on Tuesdays at 12:30 in Terrell 214.

##### **Step 2: Attend a Speech Communication Colloquium**

Guidelines:

- a. Make sure that you are able to attend the entire colloquium (usually an hour).
- b. Make sure your instructor verifies you are there or get another instructor to write down your name.
- c. Take notes during the colloquium so that you are able to write an analysis of the talk.

##### **Step 3: Write a 2 Page Summary & Analysis of the Colloquium Presentation**

Guidelines:

- a. Your paper should contain at least two full pages of text (not including title page and references).
- b. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have carefully listened to and understood the talk. It should be partly a summary and an astute description of what you got out of the talk. Papers that contain simple phrases like "I didn't like his/her research" or "it was confusing" will be not be accepted for credit. You need to critically evaluate the research content of the talk.
- c. Your paper should be prefaced with a **cover page**, which must list the following (in order):
  1. The title of the speaker's talk
  2. The speaker's name
  3. The date of the colloquium
  4. Your name
  5. Your instructor's name
- d. The paper must be typed using a 12-point font and double-spaced.

##### **Step 4: Turn In Your Paper**

Guideline:

Submit your paper to your instructor **before final** exam week. Any papers turned in during final exam week will not be accepted for credit, nor will any unacceptable papers receive credit.