

Guidelines for Journal Research Reviews

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Purpose

Research reviews consist of summaries of current research (articles or books based on research published within past 12 months) pertinent to the practice of youth ministry and/or the education of youth ministry professionals. The intent of this section of *The Journal of Youth Ministry* (JYM) is to expose our readers to relevant research in related and contributing fields such as psychology, sociology, and education.

Guidelines

- The review should be based upon research published in significant, respected journals. Examples include *Journal of Adolescent Research*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Youth and Theology*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Sociology*, and *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*. The review should not be based upon an article published in *JYM*, as we assume our subscribers have read the content of recent issues.
- The review should describe the *research* underlying the article/book, and should not review the article/book itself.

Format

- Reviews must be submitted as single-spaced MS Word documents using 11pt Helvetica font with normal paragraph style.
- The header and footer of all pages should be left blank.
- Reviews should be 800 to 1000 words in length. Exceptions for longer articles may be made based on relevance and content.
- Reviews must be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian, 9th Ed.). Since Chicago style allows for some variation, the following particular formatting rules are to be observed.
 1. Endnotes
 - a. Endnotes must be used rather than footnotes or in-text citations. Endnotes should be in Helvetica 10 pt font. First line of endnote should be indented with normal paragraph indentation (5 spaces). Number in note should be regular font (not superscript) followed by a period.
 - b. First footnote for each source should be in formal citation format, including full bibliographic information.
 - c. Second and subsequent citation of the same source should follow the format: author last name, abbreviated title (using punctuation or formatting appropriate to that source), and page number(s).
 - d. Keep expository footnotes to a minimum. Endnotes should contain sources and only rarely should they expand upon material in the main body of the paper.
 - e. No separate bibliography is to be included since the first citation of each source will contain full bibliographic information.
 - f. At the end of each in-text endnote, please place the number of the endnote between brackets. For example, immediately following an in-text endnote ending in "1", please place a [1]. This assists our General Editor with final formatting. Here is an example:

This is an important idea from another source.¹[1]

2. Title Styles

- a. There will be no article title; the review will begin with the formal citation of the research article, following the Chicago Manual of Style for bibliography formatting. This will be single-spaced, left aligned, and bolded.

Example:

Adachi, Peter J.C. and Teena Willoughby. "Do Video Games Promote Positive Youth Development?" *Journal of Adolescent Research* 28, no. 2 (2013): 155-165.

- b. First level section title: bold, centered, headline style capitalization, blank line before and after.
- c. Second level section title: normal print, centered, headline style capitalization, blank line before and after.
- d. Third level section title: Italicized font, flush left, headline style capitalization, blank line before and after.

Submission

- All research reviews are to be submitted electronically to Dr. Brad Widstrom at Denver Seminary (brad.widstrom@denverseminary.edu).
- To be considered for inclusion in the journal, reviews must be submitted to the editor by June 15th for the fall issue and January 15th for the spring issue.
- Please provide a cover page to your submitted review, including author's name, academic degree, institutional position and affiliation, email address, phone number, and brief bio, along with a 2-3 sentence summary of the research.
- At the end of the review, place only your name (no titles or degrees) in the lower right corner, followed by your institutional affiliation (university/college, church, organization) and its geographic location (city, state). This must be right aligned and single-spaced.

Example:

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Outline for Reviews

To be interesting to read, easy to follow, and helpful for practice, JYM Research Reviews should 1) describe the study, 2) evaluate the study, and 3) discuss the relevance and implications of the study. Use of a common pattern for all reviews provides a guiding structure for both the reviewer and the reader. Please use the following headings to organize your review.

Introduction

A paragraph introducing the study; this should hook the readers, demonstrate the relevance of the study to their professional calling, and provide a short synopsis.

Research Question

Inform the readers of the rationale, goals, and objectives of the study? What question(s) were the researchers attempting to answer?

Research Methodology

A presentation and explanation of the research question, study methodology, participants, and data analysis.

Findings/Results

A description of the study's findings. This section should not include your evaluation or suggested application of the findings.

Discussion

This section is your discussion of the research, not a rehashing of the discussion section in the research being reviewed. Potential items for discussion include reliability, validity, generalizability, limitations, value, and suggestions for improving the study. Ideas for potential further research might also be included.

Implications

A short concluding section stating implications of the research for youth ministry praxis and/or youth ministry education. Keep in mind not all readers are engaged in faith-based or church-specific adolescent ministry.

Contact the Research Review Editor via email for electronic copies of sample past reviews.

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