



**Task Title: Analyzing Research in Psychology**

OALCF Cover Sheet – Practitioner Copy

**Learner Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Started:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Completion:** Yes  No

**Goal Path:** Employment  Apprenticeship

Secondary School  Post Secondary  Independence

**Task Description:**

Learner will read and critically analyze a research paper (journal article).

**Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:**

- Find and Use Information/Read continuous text/A1.3
- Communicate Ideas and Information/Write continuous text/B2.3
- Use Digital Technology/D.1

**Materials Required:**

- Computer with internet access and web browser
- Pen and Paper

## Learner Information

Many first-year college or university students take an introductory psychology course as an elective. One of the main assignments in these courses is to critically analyse a research paper (journal article).

**Step one:** Visit the **Public Library of Science (PLOS One) website** :

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/browse/psychology>

**Step two:** Find the following article: *Experiencing more meaningful coincidences is associated with more real-life creativity? Insights from three empirical studies*

## Work Sheet

**Task 1: What is the hyperlink for the study?**

Answer:

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**Task 2: Who conducted the research for the study?**

Answer:

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**Task 3: Identify and describe either the basic assumption of the researchers, or if it was an experiment, identify the hypothesis.**

Answer:

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**Task 4: What were the 3 main conclusions of the study?**

Answer:

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**Task 5: If you were to conduct another study based on this study, what questions would you ask and what would you still want to find out? (Questions should contain information from the study.)**

Answer:

Answers:

**Task 1: What is the hyperlink for the study?**

Answer: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0300121>

**Task 2: Who conducted the research for the study?**

Answer: Christian Rominger, Andreas Fink, Corinna M. Perchtold-Stefan

**Task 3: Identify and describe either the basic assumption of the researchers, or if it was an experiment, identify the hypothesis.**

Answer: to establish if there is a link between creativity and the perception of meaningful patterns in random arrangements, which is coined apophenia, patternicity, synchronicity, or the experience of meaningful coincidences

**Task 4: What were the 3 main conclusions of the study?**

Answer:

1. Studies showed that people who experienced more meaningful coincidences are also more often engaged in real-life creativity such as creative activities and creative achievements.
2. PA and NA are related to more perceived meaningful coincidences, predominantly at the level of the person.
3. Creative potential seems less strongly linked with the experience of meaningful coincidences as literature might have implicitly suggested.

**Task 5: If you were to conduct another study based on this study, what questions would you ask and what would you still want to find out?**

Answer: The answers will vary but should contain information from the study: "Although the novel findings presented here are in accordance with the assumption of a connection between the experience of meaning and creativity (e.g., [2,10]), we still do not know much about the mechanisms providing this robust link."

### Performance Descriptors

Levels	Performance Descriptors	Needs Work	Completes task with support from practitioner	Completes task independently
A1.3	Integrates several pieces of information from texts			
A1.3	Manages unfamiliar elements (e.g. vocabulary, context, topic) to complete tasks			
A1.3	Identifies the purpose and relevance of texts			
A1.3	Skims to get the gist of longer texts			
A1.3	Infers meaning which is not explicit in texts			
A1.3	Uses organizational features, such as headings, to locate information			
A1.3	Obtains information from detailed reading			
A1.3	Identifies sources, evaluates, and integrates information			

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Levels	Performance Descriptors	Needs Work	Completes task with support from practitioner	Completes task independently
B2.3	Writes texts to present information, summarize, express opinions, present arguments, convey ideas, or persuade			
B2.3	Manages unfamiliar elements (e.g. vocabulary, context, topic) to complete tasks.			
B2.3	Selects and uses vocabulary, tone, and structure appropriate to the task.			
B2.3	Organizes and sequences writing to communicate effectively			
D.1	Follows simple prompts			
D.1	Follows apparent steps to complete tasks			
D.1	Interprets brief text and icons			

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Levels	Performance Descriptors	Needs Work	Completes task with support from practitioner	Completes task independently
D.1	Locates specific functions and information			
D.1	Begins to perform simple searches			

This task: Was successfully completed  Needs to be tried again

Learner Comments:

Instructor (print):

Learner (print):

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URLs

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/browse/psychology>