

Article summaries

One of the biggest weaknesses of the nonprofit management field is the lack of connections between managers and researchers. Nonprofit researchers seek out the advice and input of practitioners infrequently, while academic research frequently is technically inaccessible to practitioners.

In these assignments, you will be the missing link between researchers and practitioners. Here is the scenario: Upon graduating with your master's degree, you go to work in the upper management of a medium-sized nonprofit. What is this nonprofit? What does it do? (Use a real nonprofit you would like to work for.)

Knowing your strong academic background, your executive director looks to you for advice on "academic" matters. Occasionally, she comes to you with an academic article, and asks you to make sense of it for her.

What she wants is more than just a watered-down abstract of the article. Specifically, she wants you to put three things in a memo.

1. What does the article say? What are the research questions or hypotheses? How does the author answer the questions? What are the main conclusions?
2. What is the direct applicability of the article and its conclusions for your firm, if any? Be specific in discussing applications.
3. What are the article's strengths and weaknesses, in your opinion? Should she really pay attention to this? Think critically and practically.

Here's the hard part: You have only *one page* for this memo. Your ED does not have time to read more than that. This means you must be concise and to-the-point. This exercise is all about quality, not quantity.