Short paper #1: An opportunity to write about a perception experiment!
Due: Tuesday May 26th by 1:00 pm
Submit your paper by email to rabrams@wustl.edu

The paper length should be 600 words or less!

Assignment for the paper. In the paper, you should concisely summarize the contents of a journal article that includes an experiment on some aspect of sensation/perception. The paper should be written as if you are writing a newspaper article to appear in the science section of a newspaper like the New York Times.

To see some examples of this style of writing look here: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html.
There are also some good examples here: http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/mind_brain/perception/.
Here is an example from some of my research: http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/25511.aspx

The audience for your paper can be assumed to be educated and have a good vocabulary—but they can also be assumed to know nothing about psychology and maybe not too much about science in general. Your job is to explain, in your own words without using jargon, one of the experiments in the journal article. In the paper you must explain the rationale for the experiment (why the authors did what they did); what their methods were (what they did); and finally their results (what they found and what implications their findings have). If the article contains multiple experiments you do not need to describe all of them.

Remember, you should not use jargon or any technically detailed descriptions. Instead you should summarize the experiment in language that would be understood by someone without any special knowledge about science or psychology. Remember also that in a short paper it will be difficult to describe all of the results, or to describe even a subset of the results with a great deal of detail. Thus, you should think about the most important aspect(s) of the results and describe that.

Be sure to write the paper yourself, using your own words. The wording used in a journal article, and in abstracts of journal articles, will generally be inappropriate for the newspaper-article-like paper that you will be writing. You should first read the article and attempt to understand the experimental results. Then explain the experiment to your target audience.

The article must have been published in 2015, and must come from one of the following journals (or a pre-approved alternative):

- Attention, Perception and Psychophysics
- Psychonomic Bulletin and Review
- Psychological Science
- Cognition
- Visual Cognition
- Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance
- Vision Research
- Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
- Nature
- Nature Neuroscience
- Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
- Science

If you search for articles using PsycINFO you will most likely be able to get a good article online. Go to the library webpage: http://library.wustl.edu
Then select databases and search the psycinfo database:
Once you reach Psycinfo, enter a keyword or two and you should be able to find a suitable article. (You may need to connect through a computer on campus in order to access the database, or follow the instructions on the webpage for off-campus access.)

Include a complete bibliographic listing of the article (authors, article title, journal, page numbers, etc.) somewhere in your paper.

NOTE: The score for a late paper will be reduced by 10% of the value of the assignment for each day (or portion of a day) late.