

# Field Study Summary Report

## Overview:

In this activity, students will read an article about a recent field study or listen to an interview with a researcher who has performed a recent field study. Students will then complete a brief [online summary](#) in which they summarize the following points about the field study:

1. The **issue** examined by the field study.
2. The **methodology** employed by the field study. (i.e. What data was gathered? How did the study gather this data?)
3. The **findings** of the study. (What did the data reveal?)
4. The **implications** of the study. (What do the findings suggest we should do? What actions should we take?)

Note: When you perform your own field study later this term, you will break this final element down into “interpretations,” “conclusion,” and then possible “directions for further study.” Given that radio interviews rarely explore this kind of detail, I do not require you to discuss these finer points in your field study summary.

## Finding a good study to examine:

Students are asked to explore the [CBC website](#) to find a report on a recent study. (Search for “new study finds.”) You might not expect field studies to be reported on in the media very regularly, but the fact of the matter is that you can hear a report on a new study almost every day on the CBC radio. The [Metro Morning archives](#) is a particularly good place to search for field study interviews. Here are just a few examples of studies reported in August of 2017:

- [West Nile outbreak ‘imminent’ researcher says](#)
- [Why fermented food should be on your list for daily meals](#)
- [Your cool kid status as a teen might have made you prone to anxiety today](#)
- [Dora the Explorer trumps Franklin the Turtle, new research says](#)

## Be sure you’re actually looking at a field study:

Two things can easily be confused for field studies. The first is experiments. Experiments refer to research performed in controlled conditions, such as laboratories. Here are two good examples: [Mole rats survive 18 minutes with no oxygen](#) and [testosterone increases reckless stock market trading](#). The second thing that can easily be confused with field studies is anecdotal observations. (Ex: [Many seeking opioid recovery in U.S. find relapse and fraud](#).) We will often hear individuals in the media (ex. doctors, police officers, social workers) discussing what they observe in the field, but unless these individuals actually gather and analyze data in a careful and controlled manner, then they are merely providing anecdotal comments. A field study refers specifically to a carefully designed and thoughtfully controlled effort to gather original data in order to gain insight into a particular issue.