**Management Accounting PG 6253, S2, 2022**

**Article Critique Assignment (Weighting percentage – 30)**

**Objective:**

The purpose of this assignment is to be able to critique a research article including critically examining its strengths and weaknesses, internal and external validity, and where appropriate, reliability and validity of measures.

**The article for critiquing:**

Critically review the following journal article:

Oyewo, B. M. (2021), “Outcomes of interaction between organizational characteristics and management accounting practice on corporate sustainability: the global management accounting principles (GMAP) approach”, *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 351-385.

The article is available at UCLearn (Canvas) site of the unit: Modules – Article Critique Assignment link.

Referencing style (if used)- Harvard. Poor and non-standard referencing (if used) will be penalised by 30% of the total available marks.

**Marking criteria:**

The broad marking criteria provided in the unit outline are as follows:

* Correctly summarising the objective/s of the article, its research method/s and findings. 20%
* Critical analyses of the article's strengths, weaknesses and validity with evidence from the article that will allow the reader of the article to make value judgement about the article. 40%
* Critical analyses of the application of the findings of the article to practice (significance). 20%
* Effective communication. 20%

Please note, the above marking criteria is slightly different from what have been mentioned in the unit outline. Marking criterion 2 (60%) provided in the unit outline is broken to two parts taking out ‘significance’ as separate criterion in the above marking criteria consisting of 40% and 20%.

**Please also note, it is an article critiquing assignment and not an essay writing assignment. While completing your critiquing, you must clearly respond to above mentioned four marking criteria themes. You will get zero mark straightforward if you write an essay by haphazardly addressing the above-mentioned marking criteria themes.**

**For further details of other assignment submission related issues and requirements please check the relevant sections of the unit outline.**

**How to structure your article critique assignment:**

Article critiques typically adhere to the following structure:

*Introduction and Summary Section:* Provide an overview of the article’s main purpose and main argument simply by answer a question like what are the background and purpose of the article. Then summarise its objectives, research methods and findings.

*Assessment/critiquing paragraphs:* Basically, in this section you will critiquing the article based on the four marking criteria by using separate critiquing sub-section for each marking criterion.

*Conclusion:* Presents a commentary on the article’s overall usefulness. You should address the extent to which the findings of the article help the academics including the management accounting students and practitioners to understand the applicability of the management accounting techniques and concepts presented in the article.

To learn more about how to critique a journal article please check the following URL of the Massey University:

<http://owll.massey.ac.nz/assignment-types/article-critique.php>

You should also be able to access more helps concerning preparing your article critique assignment from the Academic Skills Program of the University of Canberra and/or the Research Help Desk of the University of Canberra library.

**Miscellaneous:**

Although it is expected from postgraduate students,from my experience I know that many of you have got no idea about research journal articles and academic research journals etc. The following information may be useful to you for learning more about articles and journals etc. Source: Anne Foley, Librarian for Social work, London Metropolitan University Library Services, October 2011.

**Why read journal articles?**

* They contain up-to-date information and debate on current topics in your subject area
* They contain specialised information that may not be available elsewhere
* They describe research by experts in your subject area.
* Most academic journal articles are peer-reviewed before publication. This means that the articles have a guarantee of quality.

**What is a journal?**

* A journal (sometimes also referred to as a **periodical** or **serial**) is a publication produced on a continuing basis; weekly or monthly or quarterly (every 4 months) or annually.
* The titles of journals (i.e. *New Media and Society* or *Journal of Communication*) usually give a good indication of the general focus of the subject matter to be found in them.

As they are published on a regular basis, journals have ***volume & issue*** numbers to identify them. A **Volume** number usually covers a specific year – i.e. 2008 may be volume 45, and an **Issue** number refers to a specific instalment of the journal within that volume – i.e. Issue 1 or 2 or 3 etc. depending on how many times per year the journal is published. Sometimes, the month of publication is used instead of an issue number. This information is crucial to finding specific articles within journals. See example, below, of a journal article reference.

There are 2 main types of Journals:

* *Academic (also called Scholarly) journals:* often contain research articles written by subject experts; scholarly commentary and critical evaluation of issues by experts etc. articles written in academic style. Example: *Media, Culture and Society*
* *Trade or Professional Journals:* these usually contain news articles and commentary on current issues; articles are written in everyday language; they have practical information & often a ‘Jobs’ section etc. Example: *Broadcast*

**What is a journal article?**

Journals contain several articles, written by subject experts or researchers or practitioners within the subject area. Some journals contain articles covering a diverse set of topics related to the subject area. The title *Media, Culture and Society*, for example, indicates that this journal contains articles relating to all aspects of media and culture. Not all journals, as you can see from the example above, have the word JOURNAL in their titles.

**How to recognise a journal article on a reading list, bibliography etc.?**

Say for example, a reading list or bibliography presents the following journal article information:

Bethany, K.(2011*)* Entertaining ideas: social issues in entertainment television*. Media, Culture and Society,* 33(6), 905-921*.*

Bethany, K. – The author whose last/surname is ‘Bethany and first name initial is K.

(2011) – The year of publication

Entertaining ideas: social issues in entertainment television*.* – The title of article

*Media, Culture and Society,* - The title of the journal (always in Italics)

33(6) – The volume and issue numbers. In some formats it is written as Vol. 33, No. 3.

905-921 – The page numbers of the article in journal. In some formats the page numbers information is presented as pp. 905-921.

**How many types of journal articles are there?**

There are two main types of journal article:

* *Empirical (also called primary) research:* the author/s have carried out first-hand research, and are presenting, describing, evaluating and drawing conclusions from their research.
* *Secondary research (also called desk research)*: author/s summarise, synthesize and draw conclusions on the published works of other authors.

**The usual layout and content of an academic/scholarly journal article:**

This is an indication of how a journal article is usually laid out; not all are laid out in this exact way.

*Title:* indicating/describing the subject of the article.

*Author/s*:Name/s and, often, their credentials/qualifications and place of work/affiliation.

*Abstract:* a summary of the article describing the article’s purpose, method, results and conclusions.

*Keywords*: words used to describe the main topics within the article. These are used for various reasons, i.e. when scanning for relevance of the article to your own studies, to help retrieve the article from an online database.

*Introduction:* sets the scene; describes what the article is about, what the issue is being addressed in the article etc.

*Section heading*: detailed statement of the issue being addressed. The title of the heading should indicate the specific sub-topic being described in that section.

*Literature Review*:this section details other literature related to the issue being addressed and how it informs the current work. Not found in every article, mainly in research articles.

*Methodology/method*: if the article is describing research, this explains the method used to collect data.

*Other Section headings & section content*: variously describe, in depth, either the literature review, analysis of research carried out (if a research article), or giving an indication of the contents of the section.

*Findings*: if the article is describing research, the Findings detail the results of the research.

*Conclusion/discussion/ recommendations****:*** this sections summarises the conclusions drawn from the research (if a research article), discusses the implications of the research findings.

References:an alphabetical list, by author, of the sources (books, journal articles, reports, statistics etc.) referred to (cited) in the article.