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### Writing Assignment #1

Knowing the difference between a primary and review article should be important to all people for several reasons. Getting the most accurate information is the only way to protect yourself and your loved ones given the messed-up world we now find ourselves in. One of the principal reasons why the COVID-19 virus has hit America harder than any other country is because of the tons of misinformation circulating that is believed at face value due to apathy or ignorance (disregarding the incompetent leadership).

When it comes to the coronavirus the only information that should be trusted is what has come straight from the scientists, nurses, or doctors on the front line of this pandemic. In other words, a primary article. A primary article in the sciences will include the original data and analyses from an experiment without any review articles or paraphrased lines cited with it. Which is why they are called primary articles, they only come from the first-person point of view. Under normal circumstances, this would only be necessary if the general information on the subject was not sufficient for the task at hand, a college writing assignment for example. Primary articles usually follow the IMRAD method, meaning they include Introduction, Methods, Results, Analysis, and Discussion sections followed by a list of their references. Lastly a primary article will likely (almost definitely in the sciences) have been peer reviewed by experts in that field. These three reasons are why the “Isolation and Characterization of a Novel

Bat Coronavirus Closely Related to the Direct Progenitor of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” report is the primary article. Starting in the first sentence the author speaks in the first person and continues to provide how and why they collected their data. Even though they did not divide their paper into sections using the IMRAD method they still had each piece included within the report. However, both articles provided happen to come from scholarly peer-reviewed sources. Finally, and most importantly the Journal of Virology article has the word “review” posted neither at the top nor inside the text.

On the other hand, a secondary or review article exists to summarize the information already out there about a subject or critically review another author’s work. Therefore the “Bat Coronaviruses in China” article is secondary. At first glance this article would be the primary article (disregarding the word “review”) given its length, formatting, and scholarly website it was attached too. However, it becomes increasingly clear as the article goes on that it is composed of several different sources of information and not providing any original information of its own. Furthermore, since this article does not detail any experiment performed it does not have any methods, results, or discussion and the references list is 5 times greater than the Journal of Virology article which makes sense in this instance.

As seen by these two articles, the peer-review is a basic part of the editorial process for all scholarly journals. It includes one or more rounds of a finished manuscript being critically reviewed by other experts in the field the author wants to publish in before that author can publish. This exists to filter out the untrue, flawed, and/ or error-prone research from being accepted as fact. In addition to checking the author(s) work for grammar, spelling, syntax errors, etc. and most of all for plagiarism; all along the editorial process.