**Checkpoint # 7**

Identifying a Meta-Analysis

Now that you’ve been introduced to meta-analyses, I’d like you to find a meta-analysis that has been published about your chosen media effect. This will help you understand the state of research on your media effect, which will help you as you prepare to complete your final project this semester (i.e., “Research Synthesis # 3”).

A good place to search for a relevant meta-analysis is the assigned article by **Rains et al. (2018)**, which overviews most meta-analyses that have been conducted on media effects. Open this article and look at the highlighted results on Table 3 (p. 114-115). This portion of the table describes most meta-analyses that have been conducted on the topic of “media”. Read through these descriptions and see if any of them align with your chosen topic. When you find one that fits your topic, you should look up the title of the paper in the reference list, and then pull up the published meta-analysis from the OSU library website.

For example, imagine that my topic is: “What is the effect of *watching political news* on *voting*?” A relevant meta-analysis would be the one listed by Benoit et al. (2003): “Watching general election debates is positively associated with vote preference” (p. 114). I would then find the title of this paper on this reference list: “A meta-analysis of the effects of viewing U.S. presidential debates.” I would then pull up this paper from the OSU Library website.

Please note that you DO NOT need to find an exact match in the Rains et al. (2018) paper. Just find something that is close to your topic. For example, imagine that my topic is: “What is the effect of *watching romantic TV shows* on *unrealistic attitudes about marriage*?” This exact topic is not listed in Rains et al. However, I could use the meta-analysis by Morgan & Shanahan (1996): “Media consumption is associated with viewers’ perception of social reality” (p. 114).

If there are no appropriate meta-analyses listed in Rains et al. (2018), you can try searching for other meta-analyses that have been published on your topic. To do this, you should try using similar search terms that gave you success in “Research Synthesis # 1” and “Research Synthesis # 2”, but you should add search terms like *meta-analysis*. You can also email me and let me know that you’re struggling to find a meta-analysis, and I can try to point you in the right direction.

Once you’ve found a meta-analysis, you should answer the questions below. I will give you feedback about whether or not you are on the right track. You will use this feedback as you prepare to complete “Research Synthesis # 3” in the coming weeks.

If any of the meta-analyses that we have covered in class are appropriate for your topic, you can use them.

**[Scroll down for questions]**

**Topic:What is the effect of online video gameplay on social capital?**

1. What media effect are you researching? Remember, this should be stated as a question (i.e., What is the effect of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?)

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1. Below, copy and paste the **TITLE** of the meta-analysis you found on your topic (or a related topic).

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1. Below, copy and paste the **ABSTRACT** of the meta-analysis you found on your topic (or a related topic).

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1. What is the overall effect size reported in the meta-analysis for your chosen media effect? Is this effect small, medium, large, or non-existent (i.e., zero)? You should use the guidelines discussed in lecture for identifying small, medium, and large effects.

(Note: Not all meta-analyses will report effect sizes as *r*. Instead, they might report alternative effect sizes like *d* or *g*. These alternative effect sizes are judged by different standards than the ones we use for *r*. Please make a note below if the article reports one of these other effect sizes so that I can help you categorize it accurately).

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