BCS259, Spring 2016-17: Homework #1 :: Due by noon on **2/7/2016**
(5 points maximum, 5% of your total grade + peer-review comments: up to 3 extra points)

Assignment Instructions:
1) Read the following article (uploaded on Blackboard):
   Lew-Williams, C., Pelucchi, B., & Saffran, J. (2011). Isolated words enhance statistical language learning in infancy. *Developmental Science*, 14, 1323-1329.

2) Summarize the article <u>in no more than 6 paragraphs (no word limit).</u>
   *Recommended structure
   > [1st paragraph] Research question(s)
   > [2nd paragraph] Experiment 1 method
   > [3rd paragraph] Experiment 1 finding(s)
   > [4th paragraph] Experiment 2 method
   > [5th paragraph] Experiment 2 finding(s)
   > [6th paragraph] Conclusions / Implications

   **This is slightly different from what I included in my slides (Lecture 4, Jan 26). I realized that these 6 points above are better suited for this particular paper.

3) Your assignment will be graded by your peer and also by your instructor according to the following five criteria (1 point each):
   - **Accurate and clear exposition of research question(s)**
     o *Does the summary provide necessary and sufficient information about the goal(s) of the study?*
     o *Does the summary tell us about what is "new" and "different" about this study compared to previous ones?*
   - **Accurate and clear exposition of research methods**
     o *Does the summary use correct terminology to describe the methods?*
     o *Does the summary contain correct information about 1) the number and the age of subjects tested and 2) experimental conditions?*
     o *Does the summary provide enough information about methods so that readers who have not read the paper can understand how subjects are tested?*
   - **Accurate and clear exposition of findings**
     o *Does the summary clearly articulate what was found in each of the experiments?*
   - **Accurate and clear exposition of conclusions and implications of the study**
     o *Does the summary tell us the significance of the study?*
     o *Does the summary address the research question?*
   - **Readability**
     o *Is the summary carefully formatted and edited?*
     o *Is the summary free of spelling mistakes and run-on sentences?*
     o *Is the author using his/her own words and demonstrating his/her understanding of the contents of the paper?*

4) Do not copy and paste sentences from the original paper. Your summary must be written by yourself and in your own words. Any instances of plagiarism will be reported to the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Useful resources:
Useful tips for reading and presenting a scientific paper by Dr. Ben Hayden in BCS.
   http://haydenlab.com/HowToReadAPaper.pdf

Amanda Pogue's personal website
   http://www.bcs.rochester.edu/people/apogue/#course_resources

Submission Instructions:
   This assignment must be typed and submitted via Blackboard **no later than 12:00pm (noon) on February 7, 2017.** Your document should be pasted into the textbox on the assignment page on Blackboard - please format it nicely (indicating paragraph breaks by indenting the starts of new paragraphs or putting a blank line, etc), and use 12-point, Times New Roman as your font. There is no word limit for this assignment but your paper will be approximately 500-1000 words in length. Late assignments will receive a 20% deduction for each day they are late starting at 12:01pm on the day the assignment is due.
   Extensions will only be granted for University-sanctioned excuses (e.g. illness, family emergency, or religious holiday). You can talk to your friend and work on this assignment together, but each of you needs to submit your own summary -- You and your friend cannot submit one paper. **Please indicate at the end of your summary if you worked with somebody else and enter student ID of your collaborator(s); otherwise, identical sentences will be considered to be plagiarism.**
   If you have questions, please speak with us - we're happy to help you!

Grading Instructions:
   By midnight of 2/9, we will email each of you with a document that you are assigned to grade. Use the "Track Changes" feature of MS Word and correct mistakes and add comments to the document. If you want to make your comments anonymous, you can follow the procedures described here:
(http://libraryanswers.law.pace.edu/a.php?qid=119500) to remove your personal information from the document. (Comment boxes will just say "Author" instead of your name or initial.)

At the bottom of the document, you will see the following grading rubric:

- **Accurate and clear exposition of research question(s) ___[1/0.5/0]**
  - *Does the summary provide necessary and sufficient information about the goal(s) of the study?*
  - *Does the summary tell us about what is "new" and "different" about this study compared to previous ones?*

- **Accurate and clear exposition of research methods___[1/0.5/0]**
  - *Does the summary use correct terminology to describe the methods?*
  - *Does the summary contain correct information about 1) the number and the age of subjects tested and 2) experimental conditions?*
  - *Does the summary provide enough information about methods so that readers who have not read the paper can understand how subjects are tested?*
- **Accurate and clear exposition of findings___[1/0.5/0]**
  - *Does the summary clearly articulate what was found in each of the experiments?*
- **Accurate and clear exposition of conclusions and implications of the study___[1/0.5/0]**
  - *Does the summary tell us the significance of the study?*
  - *Does the summary address the research question?*
- **Readability___[1/0.5/0]**
  - *Is the summary carefully formatted and edited?*
  - *Is the summary free of spelling mistakes and run-on sentences?*

STUDENT GRADER
Research question(s)   [   ]
Method   [   ]
Finding(s)   [   ]
Conclusion(s)/Implication(s) [   ]
Readability   [   ]   STUDENT GRADER TOTAL [   ]

INSTRUCTOR GRADER
Research question(s)   [   ]
Method   [   ]
Finding(s)   [   ]
Conclusion(s)/Implication(s) [   ]
Readability   [   ]   INSTRUCTOR GRADER TOTAL [   ]

                                        YOUR GRADE   [   ]

In the parentheses in the rubric, you enter "1", "0.5" or "0":
  - 1… The summary meets the criteria
  - 0.5… The author showed an effort, but the summary does not meet the criteria at a satisfactory level
  - 0… The summary does not meet the criteria

Your peer-reviewing comments/grades for an assigned homework are **due on 2/14/2017 noon**.

This peer grading is part of your homework. Failing to submit your comments/grades by the deadline will result in subtraction of 1 point from your own grade.