

Term Paper Assignment- Due Friday 4/17

You will need to formulate a question about a concept in psychology that interests you and answer that question in the form of a 7-page, double-spaced, APA-style paper.

The kinds of questions appropriate for the paper topic will vary depending on your interests. Some examples include: "How can we increase people's helpfulness?", "What causes people to become addicted to alcohol?", "Why do people fall in love?", "What are the effects of divorce on children?" If you are stuck for a topic, please feel free to ask me for help.

The final paper will be an answer to your chosen question. To answer it, you will use information from at least four *empirical* journal articles (academic papers that do experiments, not news or magazine articles). You will discuss the information from these articles and explain how they help to answer your questions. The paper should use APA style in citing sources (both in text and in a references section at the end) and include an APA style title page. See attached rubric for more information about what I am expecting in this paper.

Goals

This paper is designed to assess your ability to:

- Construct arguments clearly and concisely based on evidence-based psychological concepts and theories
- Craft clear and concise written communications to address specific audiences
- Use grammar appropriate to professional standards and conventions
- Employ APA writing style to make precise and persuasive arguments
- Tailor length and development of ideas in formats that fit the purpose
- Seek feedback to improve writing quality resulting in multiple drafts

Due Dates

*All assignments should be turned in through My.Westminster AND Turn It In

Friday 3/6: Paper topic and outline due. This should include your paper topic/question, an outline of your paper, and an APA-style reference list of 4 primary sources (Worth 10% of term paper grade).

Friday 4/17: Final term paper due.

Drafts

To have a successful paper, you will need to write more than one draft. I highly recommend editing your paper several times as well as having a friend read over your paper.

I will return your paper topic and outline with comments for you. I am also happy to meet with you during my office hours to discuss your papers or look over what you have written so far. This is an excellent way to make sure that you are on the right track with your paper and doing so will absolutely improve your final paper and its grade.

Paper Topic/Outline Assignment:

Topic: 5%

- Topic included in assignment
- Topic has been approved by Dr. Richman

Outline: 55%

- Includes all 4 sources
- All 4 sources are summarized
- All 4 sources are tied in to the main topic

References: 40%

- Has at least 4 sources
- At least 4 sources are empirical journal articles
- Correct APA style is used

Paper Rubric

This is the rubric I will be using to grade your final papers. I highly recommend you use it while you are writing your papers and go through it after you are finished to ensure that you have included everything.

*Note: This rubric is not based in points, but in percentages. In order to get a perfect score in each category, you must cover every bullet point in that category excellently.

APA Style and Formatting: 15%

- In text citations follow correct APA style
- References section follows correct APA style
- Sources cited when appropriate in main body
- APA style title page included

General Assignment Guidelines: 10%

- Paper is 7 pages long (with 1 in margins, 12 point font, etc.)
- Paper is double-spaced
- Paper includes at least 4 empirical journal articles
- All sources are primary, empirical sources

Body of Paper: 75%

- Sources are directly related to topic
- Sources summarized using appropriate amount of detail
- Sources summarized in own words- did not use quotations
- Accurately identifies hypotheses and methodology
- Accurately reports primary findings
- Discusses how source is related to paper topic

Notes about Grammar and Spelling: There is not a separate category for these, but percentage points will be taken off in each category for poor grammar and spelling, so be sure to proofread carefully and have others read over your paper before handing it in. Besides proper grammar and spelling, please be sure also to use formal, scientific language; to not use abbreviations or contractions; and do not use quotations from sources. **I will take off two percentage points for every quotation used.** I want to see that you can summarize the article- I already know that the articles authors' can.