

General Psychology

Research Project Guidelines

Introduction: This is a group research project in which you are required to use articles from **scholarly** journals to write your introduction and which you base your hypothesis on. You are required to use a minimum of two articles. You must have me check your articles before you use them. Note: It is your responsibility to get the material into me on the specified dates, without me reminding you! If any of the materials are turned in late, you will be docked points.

General Information: You need to write your paper using MLA style. If you are not familiar with MLA style, you need to look it up a book or on the internet. You need to type your paper using 12 point font and double-spacing.

Sections to include:

- 1) Title Page: Include a title and the names of your group members
- 2) Abstract: This is the first section of your paper. An abstract is a brief summary that highlights the critical elements of information you are trying to convey. Abstracts should be succinct, comprehensive and to the point. The abstract should include: a statement of the problem including a hypothesis, a description of the type of research used, scope of the research and general findings. (Note: you should write this section last.)
- 3) Introduction: This is the second section of your paper. Here you introduce your topic. You need to summarize (in your own words) previous research on the topic that is relevant to what you will be basing your own research on. **You need to end this section with what your hypothesis is.**
- 4) Methods: This is the third section of your paper. Here you discuss what methods you used. All of you will be creating and administering a survey. The Methods section should include subsections of: Participants, Procedure and Survey. In the Participants subsection, you need to discuss who your sample is, how you sampled them and how many participants you have. In the Procedure subsection, you want to discuss what procedures you used in administering your survey. In the Survey subsection, describe your survey. Include how many questions there are and what is being measured. Also include where a copy of the survey can be found. (Note: you should include a copy of your survey in the Appendix, which comes after your reference sheet.)
- 5) Results: This is the fourth section of your paper. Here you discuss the results of your survey. What did you find? **Summarize your data both graphically and numerically** by reporting means.

- 6) Discussion: This is the fifth part of your paper. Here you briefly review the findings of the research. Was your hypothesis supported or refuted?

Discuss any possible problems with your research (such as shortcomings with your sampling procedure) and discuss what future research should look into.

- 7) References: This is the sixth section of your paper. Here you need to include all references that you used. Use MLA style.
- 8) Appendix: This is the last section of your paper. Include a copy of your survey with the heading “Appendix A” and the title of your survey.

Survey Development and Administration: You need to create your own survey that must consist of a minimum of 10 items to a maximum of 20 items. You can use published surveys to help in developing your own surveys but the questions have to be in your own words.

Once you have developed your survey you need to administer it to at least 30 people. Design a sampling procedure to obtain a simple random sample from your population.

Research Resources: PsycArticles database; PsycInfo database; INFOTRAC database (all located in our library)

MLA Style References:

Visit the Columbia College Library for the latest reference materials.

Grading Rubric

Category	Description of Expectation	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Points
Title Page	Communicates subject of paper	3	2	1	0	
Abstract	Summarizes the research clearly. Provides enough background and information to understand goals of the research. Appropriate use of student words.	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4	
Introduction	Introduces the topic & summarizes the research clearly. States hypothesis concisely.	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4	
Methods	Methods are clearly presented and understandable. There is enough detail to enhance understanding. Unnecessary detail is avoided. All subsections (participants, procedure and survey) are discussed. Survey is clearly written.	12-13	10-11	8-9	1-7	
Results	Results are clear, concise and appropriately labeled. No ambiguity.	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4	
Discussion	Results are clearly and accurately interpreted. Ambiguous results are discussed. Appropriate use of student words.	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4	
References	Clear, Complete with appropriate format. Required number of references is included.	4	3	2	1	
Mechanics	Syntax (word order), effectiveness of word choice, punctuation, grammar and spelling.	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4	

PSYCHOLOGY 1 – SELF/GROUP EVALUATION

Name _____ Research Topic _____

The following information is for the instructor's use only. It is confidential and will not be shared with any group or class members. Please answer all questions completely.

1. Which article(s) did you contribute? Include articles even if they were not used in the final report. Include title, source, author and date.

2. Describe in a clear and concise manner your contributions to the research, writing and survey development and administration. Assign to yourself points (between 1 and 70) based on the **quality** and **quantity** of your work. Please be prepared to discuss your answer to this question with me.

Points _____

Research

Writing

Survey

3. What, if anything, could you have done to improve your performance on this research project?

4. List the names of the other group members. Assign each member points based on the quality and quantity of his/her work. Explain the basis for the assignment of points.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
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1.

2.

3.

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