

Abnormal Psychology Paper Guidelines

Overview: The paper will review a controversial topic in the field of abnormal psychology, providing at least two *informed* opposing viewpoints on the topic. The paper must discuss empirical evidence and theory, *not* personal opinion. References should be formatted in APA style and should include at least three scholarly sources (not including the textbook).

Due Date: April 18, 2016. Five points (10%) will be deducted for each day the paper is submitted late (e.g. 1 day late = 5 point deduction, 2 days late = 10 point deduction).

Purpose: To critically review a controversial topic in abnormal psychology, using theoretical positions and empirical evidence to describe two viewpoints on the topic and to identify and describe the position that has the strongest empirical support.

Topic: Students may choose to write about any topic listed at the end of this document, ~~any other topic not listed here~~

Submission Format: Paper must be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document through Isidore.

Length and Format: The main body of the paper should be at least 5 pages, not to exceed 7 pages (double-spaced, not including title page or references). Please use 1" margins on all sides and 12 point, Times New Roman font.

Academic Honesty: Students must work individually on the paper. Any evidence suggesting that students worked together or shared their work will result in an automatic failure of the assignment (0 points) and possible failure of the course. Evidence of plagiarism will also result in an automatic failure of the assignment (0 points) and possible failure of the course. Papers will be reviewed using Turnitin.

Grading: The paper is worth a total of 50 points. The following criteria will be used:

Introduction (5 points): Does the introduction provide a clear and complete description of the goal or argument of the paper? Is the topic of the paper clearly identified?

Main Body (20 points): Are at least two perspectives on the topic described? Are the different perspectives on the topic described accurately? Are any major points related to the perspectives overlooked? Are the perspectives reviewed in terms of their theoretical and empirical support? Does the paper indicate which position appears to have the most empirical support? Does the paper show good integration of information from the various sources (as evidenced by paraphrasing rather than direct quotations, and linking of ideas across sources)?

Conclusion (5 points): Does the paper end with a clear and complete conclusion that ties together the points made in the body of the paper? Does the paper avoid introducing new information in the conclusion?

Sources (10 points): Are at least three scholarly sources used? Are the scholarly sources used throughout the paper? Are they cited correctly? Do the sources support the goals

of the paper? Are all claims made with appropriate citation?

Mechanics (10): Does the writing reflect correct grammar, sentence structure, and spelling? Do the paragraphs in the body of the paper support the goal of the paper? Is the information well organized and communicated clearly? Is the paper of appropriate length? Were paper format guidelines (e.g., font, margins) followed?

Sources and Style: APA-style documentation of sources is required. The paper must include at least three scholarly sources (not including the textbook). "Scholarly" sources include journal articles (empirical studies or reviews of research) and books that review research (not including "pop psychology" books). The textbook will not be counted as a scholarly source for the purposes of this paper. Examples of APA-style citations are listed below. For more information, consult APA Style Guide, 6th Edition, or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/>.

APA Style In-Text Citation Examples (from Penn Online Research Tutorial):

Work by a single author:

Several rivers aside from the Thames once intersected London, although those rivers have since been covered over by development (Clayton, 2000).

Work by a single author named in the text:

Antony Clayton (2000) points out that several rivers aside from the Thames once intersected London, although those rivers have since been covered over by development.

Work by two authors:

Several rivers aside from the Thames once intersected London, although those rivers have since been covered over by development (Clayton & Johnson, 2000).

APA Style Reference List Item Examples (from OWL):

Journal Article:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number, pages.

Book:

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Book Chapter:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

Paper Topic Choices:

1. Is Dissociative Identity Disorder a valid disorder?
2. Are recovered memories a valid phenomenon?
3. Should abstinence be the only goal for people with alcohol problems, or is controlled drinking an effective alternative?
4. Are SSRIs effective for the treatment of mild to moderate depression?
5. Does Western media exposure cause eating disorders?
6. Should the diagnosis of ADHD be restricted to childhood?
7. Should gender identity disorder (gender dysphoria) be considered a psychological disorder?
8. Is mental illness simply a myth?
9. Is depression accurately described as resulting from a chemical imbalance?
10. Are the mentally ill more violent than the general population?
11. Should benzodiazepines no longer be prescribed for the treatment of anxiety?
12. Can psychological treatment make psychopaths more dangerous?
13. Are mental disorders better represented as dimensional or categorical phenomena?
14. Are all psychotherapies equally effective, as the Dodo Bird verdict would suggest?
15. Should psychologists continue using assessments like the Rorschach and other "questionable" projective tests?
16. Does "brain training" actually improve cognitive functioning and can it prevent dementia?