

PSYC 601 Writing Assignment Progress Tasks

Task 1: Select 2 topics of interest; 5 pts

Due: Friday, 8/23

Description: Pick two topics that interest you. You can create your own idea or use the Proposed Topic List.

Guiding Questions: What are you curious about? Why did you take this course? What do you want to learn from this course?

Submit: Identify two topics that interest you and explain briefly (approximately a paragraph per topic) what you find interesting about them or additional information you would like to know about them.

Task 2: Read 3 articles PER topic and select topic; 5 pts

Due: Friday, 8/30

Description: To better understand these topics, find and review 3 empirical articles (via PsychInfo, PubMed, PsycARTICLES) PER TOPIC that explore questions that interest you about these topics. Review the “Future Research” sections of each article to evaluate whether there are any proposed research questions you’d like to explore.

Guiding Questions: What conflicting information do you see among the articles? What themes/similarities do you see across articles? How do the strengths of one article address the weaknesses of another? What questions do you still have about the content?

Submit: 1) Write a summary IN YOUR OWN WORDS (i.e., don’t copy the abstract) of EACH article (provide the APA citation for the article) highlighting the main purpose/research questions, the main findings, and its strengths/weaknesses. 2) Identify the topic you’d like to further pursue and describe 2-3 potential research questions/themes/etc you’d like to explore (based on your findings from the 3 articles related to that topic).

Task 3: Read 6 NEW articles about selected topic and draft an initial thesis statement; 10 pts

Due: Friday, 9/13

Description: Focus your search on articles that are examining your specific topic and any specific questions that interest you. Review 6 articles and continue to look for overarching themes among the articles as well any discrepancies. If you are having difficulty finding articles via a search engine, review the “References” section of articles for potential leads. Note the limitations of the studies and proposed areas for further research for potential ideas. Continue to refine your initial interest in the topic by integrating the articles and identifying common connections that relate to other psychological research, other disciplines, case precedent, current events, legal issues, etc. You are trying to identify a unique angle about which to discuss your topic and you want to “teach” your reader something – not simply summarize other research.

Guiding Questions: If you had to teach someone the main theme/results of all the research you’ve done, what would you highlight? What “story” would you tell about the information you’ve learned?

Submit: 1) Write a summary of EACH article (provide the APA citation for the article) highlighting the main purpose/research questions, the main findings, and its potential strengths/weaknesses. 2) Draft an initial “thesis statement” that is comprised of your unique idea/proposal/angle/theme/synthesis.

Task 4: Read 6 NEW articles about selected thesis; Initial outline; 10 pts

Due: Friday, 9/27

Description: Now that you are exploring your topic more in-depth, new questions might arise from the articles or new connections will be made. Refine your thesis statement as needed to reflect this additional information. Create an initial outline to start organizing your main ideas.

Guiding Questions: How is each article helping me tell my story? What's the beginning, middle, and end of my story?

Submit: 1) Write a summary of EACH article (provide the APA citation for the article) highlighting the main purpose/research questions, the main findings, and its potential strengths/weaknesses. 2) Include an up-to-date thesis statement, and briefly explain (2-3 sentences) how each relevant article you have read from Tasks 2-4 contributes to your thesis – even if tangentially. *Please note: You might not be able to use all the articles you reviewed as your thesis evolves.” 3) Provide an initial outline that identifies the main ideas/sections of your paper (no longer than 1 page).

Task 5: Detailed outline and Introduction; 10 points

Due: Monday, 10/14

Description: Create an outline that includes the thesis statement and main headings(sections)/subheadings (main ideas within the section) presented in the order that makes the most organizational sense. Identify the specific main idea for each paragraph/section, making sure it ties back to the thesis statement. Each section/main idea of your outline should include at least 2-3 sources that can be integrated to support the main idea.

Submit: An introduction (2-4 paragraphs) that provides the foundation for the specific thesis followed by a detailed outline of the titles of headings/subheadings for the remainder of the paper; complete sentences identifying the main ideas of each section; a listing of which articles will be integrated in each section; a brief description (1-2 sentences) of *what* data/theory/research from each article will be included in the section and *how* it will be integrated with the other sources in that section; a brief description of the further research/conclusion sections.

Task 6: Revised Introduction and one additional section of the paper; 10 points

Due: Monday, 10/28

Guiding Questions: Do my paragraphs have a “topic” sentence or do they start by describing a study? Am I describing studies, or am mentioning multiple studies to describe and support a “main idea.”

Submit: Revise the introduction based on feedback received and write one additional section of the paper, being sure to include the relevant research to support the main ideas for each paragraph within the section.

Task 7: Initial draft of paper for peer editing

Due: Friday, 11/8

Description: Using your outline as a base, create an initial draft of the full paper that includes narrative paragraphs, organizational structure (i.e., headings/subheadings), and transitions between sections. In other words, do not submit an outline or a bulleted draft. You should not be overly worried about grammar, transitional sentences, word choice, etc – just start writing. However, this paper will be the draft reviewed by your peer, so the “closer” it is to being completed, the more helpful your feedback will be.

Submit: Paper draft in APA format.

Task 8: Peer-Reviewed papers

Due: Friday, 11/15

Description: See Sakai site for detailed description of peer review assignment

Submit: See Sakai site for detailed description of peer review assignment submission.

Task 9: Final Paper

Due: Wednesday, 12/4

Description and Submission: See Sakai site for detailed description/grading rubric of Final Paper Submission.