

Final Exam Research Paper

AP Psychology – Mr. Caccia Spring 2016

General Instructions

Independent research allows each AP Psychology student the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest, and delve into greater detail on the chosen topic than we would have time to cover as an entire class.

Each paper, to be submitted electronically, should be 4-5 pages typed, double-spaced with a font size of 12, not counting the cover page and references page. Your research should include a minimum of 5 references, with at least 2 references coming from either books or professional journal articles. In addition to turning in a hard copy of your paper you must submit it to TurnItIn.com. More information regarding this process will be provided after you return from spring break.

Your research papers are to be prepared in APA format, and as such should include:

1. 1” margins all around
2. Title page centered horizontally and vertically
3. References within the document in APA format (NOT footnotes, but author and year in parenthesis).
4. References page after the body of the report (not numbered, but alphabetical by author’s last name – see examples below).

American Psychological Association (**APA**) Format for References (these are fictitious samples, to show you the format):

For a professional journal article (as it would appear in the bibliography - alphabetically by author last name):

Freud, S. (1933). The interpretation of dreams. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 5(2), 144-148.

For a book:

Erikson, E. (1958). *Psychological and social development through the lifespan*. (pp. 104-155). New York, NY: Harcourt Brace.

In-paper citations (using these two examples). Paraphrase the information, ending with the citation:

"For many adults, unresolved issues from childhood may show up in the latent content of their dreams, when interpreted from a psychoanalytic point of view (Freud, 1933). In other cases, the difficulties may have more to do with their age and stage of

development. In later adulthood, conflicts may arise from career difficulties, and the feeling that it has become too late to make major life changes (Erikson, 1958)."

Topic Selection

First and foremost, select a topic that interests you! This will make your research more fun and interesting and will produce better results. Topics will be selected by students and approved by me – only one student may select each topic. Topic proposals must be submitted to me by Wednesday May 4th (you may turn proposals in earlier). All essays are due Monday May 23rd.

Presentation of Research

May 23rd will also be the day presentations start. Your presentations should essentially be a summary of your research paper. Your presentation should include a visual aid like a Prezi or a PowerPoint. I will grade them using the oral presentation rubric we have been using all year.

Your paper should address the following:

1. Give a brief background of the subject or problem. Also, include a discussion regarding why you chose this topic and why it interests you.
2. What types of research methods have been used to study this topic/problem?
3. What is the significance of this topic/problem? Why is it important for people to understand? What areas of mental or physical health may it have an impact on?
4. What is already known about this topic/problem?
5. Conclusions: what answers did your research provide for you? What are the unanswered questions, and/or the areas where further research is needed?

Grading Rubric

APA Style & Format.....	8 pts.
Grammar & Spelling.....	18 pts.
Content (each element above).....	50 pts.
References.....	8 pts.
Oral Presentation.....	16 pts.

Total..... 100 pts.