

# PSY01 – APA Research Paper Expectations

## Purpose

You will write an APA research paper about ANY topic of your choice that can be related to, or interpreted by, a psychological point of view.

## Paper Requirements

### 1. Title Page (5pts) →

- a. **On its own page before every other section**
- b. Includes the title, author, institution, and date

### 2. Abstract (5pts) →

- a. **One, succinct and well-worded paragraph**
- b. No more than 250 words
- c. On its own page right after the title page
- d. Provide the reader a snapshot of every section of your paper
- e. **This paragraph should be wrapped-up with a powerful final sentence that grabs the reader's attention and makes them want to continue reading**
- f. Write this section last because it is a summary of the rest of the paper

### 3. Introduction (5pts) →

- a. **One, succinct, thorough, and well-worded paragraph** with a summarizing concluding sentence that effectively wraps-up the paragraph
- b. Provide the reader with a clear foundational understanding of your topic - Describe the major concepts and mention some general knowledge supported by relevant research, all **appropriately cited in APA**
- c. Propose a thesis (i.e. Viewing violent media causes aggressive behavior) and state how you will attempt to validate it (i.e. This paper will attempt to validate this claim by summarizing research related to violent TV and violent video games)

### 4. Body (Literature Review) (40pts) →

- a. Summarize research related to your topic: What have others written about the topic in scientific journals, books, websites, etc.?
- b. Connections made between each source/article and your psychological topic through the use of **thoughtful transition sentences**
- c. Validate your thesis with the research you summarize
- d. The paper should cite and reference at least 3 sources of information. At least one source **MUST** be from scientific research (i.e. peer-reviewed journal article) using EBSCOhost. If you do not know how to use EBSCOhost, use the AVC library resources or Writing Lab for help.
- e. This is the major part of your paper and should contain several paragraphs totaling about 3 pages

### 5. Conclusion (5pts) →

- a. **One, succinct, thorough, and well-worded paragraph** that wraps all of the presented information together
- b. Restate your thesis, and **briefly summarize why it is supported (mention the main points)**
- c. Real-world implications/applications should be discussed
- d. **Close with a powerful concluding sentence that leaves the reader thinking**

### 6. References/APA Formatting (25pts) →

- a. References on their own page right after the end of the conclusion
- b. Sources in the references section listed in APA format....left-justified, hanging indent, no bullets
- c. If a source is included in the references section, it **MUST ALSO BE CITED correctly in the body of the paper using correct APA, in-text citation format**

### 7. Editing & Writing Mechanics (15pts)

**Review all of the APA materials posted on our Canvas page in order to format correctly**

## CHECK THIS LIST BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

### *APA Formatting* →

- An excellent paper will be typed, double-spaced, have 1-inch margins, and use a typical 12-point font
- The paper will abide by the paragraph requirements of each section, and Pages are numbered
- Headings used to indicate the five main sections - Abstract, Introduction, Body, Conclusion, References (Centered, bold, not italicized)
- If a source is included in the references section, it **MUST ALSO BE CITED correctly in the body of the paper using correct APA, in-text citation format** (checkout our Canvas page to be sure of formatting)

### *Editing* →

- An excellent paper will have sentences that are well-structured, and there are no (or very few) grammatical or spelling errors - It will be clear that the paper has been proofread and edited frequently
- Submit final paper to TurnItIn.com directly through the **Canvas** link with **8% OR LESS** similarity
  - You can submit up to 3 times before the deadline in order to check your similarity percentage
- Excessive similarity = 0** (Purposeful or Accidental Plagiarism = 0)
  - 12-15% similarity = -10 points, AT LEAST
  - 15-20% similarity = -15 points, AT LEAST
  - 20-25% similarity = -20 points, AT LEAST
  - 25-35% similarity = -25 points, AT LEAST
  - >35% similarity = 0points on paper, PERIOD

### *Writing* →

- Paragraphs have clear topic sentences that are followed by supporting, relevant information
- Transitions between paragraphs help paper flow and not seem like separate summaries
- Use at least one source is not from a legitimate peer-reviewed/scholarly journal article (No Scholarly Article = **ZERO**)
- DEVELOP paragraphs**...explain the psychological concept thoroughly, as well as the application of the concept to real-world applications
- DO NOT use direct quotes**...instead, summarize the material in your own words
  - No more than 4 words in a row can be the same as the source
- DO NOT copy sentences/phrases from sources**...instead, summarize the material in your own words
  - No more than 4 words in a row can be the same as the source
- DO NOT write numbers less than 100 in APA**...any number less than 100 must be spelled out
- DO NOT write in first-person**