

Debate (Emerging Issues) Paper Instructions and Tips

The instructor will select an emerging issue in abnormal psychology and assign you to either the "pro" or the "con" side of the debate via email. This assignment addresses the following course objectives:

- Student should demonstrate the ability to evaluate emerging issues in abnormal psychology and determine their practical application in diagnosis
- Student should demonstrate the ability to differentiate between methodologies and evaluate ethical considerations used in maladaptive behavioral research

Here is the rubric for this assignment:

Rubric for Debate	Below	Average	Above
The student showed a basic understanding of the emerging issue and of the research findings.	1.0	1.5	2.0
The student displayed an ability to criticize aspects of the emerging issue and to present a side of the debate in a rational manner (for example, in justifying the use of a method with a selected population).	1.0	1.5	2.0
The student identified at least two critical dilemmas and/or points related to the issue (for example, ethical/socio-cultural concerns).	1.0	1.5	2.0
The student used APA citations and references when referring to findings supporting his or her side of the debate. Student referenced at least 2 scholarly, peer-reviewed psychology related journal articles.	1.0	1.5	2.0
The student defended his or her position with compelling arguments and predicted future trends. Page requirement met.	1.0	1.5	2.0
Total: 10 points			

Additional Tips for the Debate/Emerging Issues Paper

- Locate at least 2 scholarly, peer-reviewed psychology related journal articles that address the emerging issue that you were assigned. Research should be fairly current (e.g. last 4-6 years.) If an older article is selected it should be balanced with a more recent article.
- Read the articles carefully and pay particular attention to findings that support and oppose your position.
- Carefully review the rubric – these are the criteria that will be assessed. Your paper should demonstrate critical thinking and compelling support for the position that you were assigned.
- Papers should be typed, 2.5-3 double spaced pages. APA Style format (e.g. cover page, reference page and in-text citations etc.)
- Cover page and reference page do not count toward the 2.5-3 page requirement.
- Need help with APA citations? Visit:
http://sites.umuc.edu/library/libhow/apa_examples.cfm
- Need help finding articles? Chat with a Librarian or email a librarian your question. (Links located on Library Home Page)

Good luck!

FYI: The emerging issue= the topic and position you were assigned ☺