Field Experience Paper

In addition to your field experience work, this paper will provide students an opportunity to examine how several items relate to their field experience, including:

- Relevant ethical principles/standards
- Career aspirations relate to their field experience
- Perceptions of their own strengths and limitations
- Their perceptions of psychology

This paper will be done in sections. Please number each section in your paper in the same way they are numbered in this paper guide.

The field experience paper will be submitted in two parts. The first version, called "First Paper" will be submitted earlier in the semester, whereas the final version will be submitted near the end of the semester – see syllabus for specific due dates.

For your final paper, you will need to reference your Career Report completed in Psyc 407.

The First Paper will contain sections 1-3 and the Final Paper will contain all of the sections below. Please carefully read the instructions.

Section 1. Field Experience Description
Include on First Paper *and* Final Paper

First Paper: Name your field experience site and briefly describe your position/function. This should take between 250-500 words.

Final Paper: Name your field experience site and briefly describe your position/function. This should take between 250-500 words. This may be the same as in your first paper, or perhaps your understanding of your position/function may change over the course of your field experience, so that what you write in the final paper differs from your first paper.

Section 2. APA Ethical Principles/Standards
Include on First Paper *and* on Final Paper

First Paper: Describe an experience related to APA Ethical Principles/Standards. For this experience, describe both your experience and the specific relevant APA Ethical Principle/Standard. How was your behavior influenced by the relevant ethical principle/standard?

Final Paper, Describe two experiences related to APA Ethical Principles/Standards. For each experience, describe both your experience and the specific relevant APA Ethical Principle/Standard. Please utilize two different APA Ethical Principles/Standards (not the same one multiple times). How was your behavior influenced by the relevant ethical principle/standard? One of the two experiences/principles may be the same one included in your first paper. It is also possible that you include the same principle or experience as was noted on your first paper, but that you write about it differently in your final paper.

APA Ethical Principles/Standards are linked here: https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/

Section 3. Application of Psychological Theory
First Paper: Discuss how a theory/concept from Psychology was related to what you did and learned at your site (provide academic, APA style citations for each of these theories/concepts).

Final Paper: Discuss how two theories/concepts from Psychology were related to what you did and learned at your site (provide academic, APA style citations for each of these theories/concepts). You can re-use the material from your first paper in this section (for one theory/concept).

Further Instructions: Please ensure that your psychological concept/theory is described clearly and is clearly tied into specific work experiences.

Here is a *poorly written* sample (don't do this): "I worked with children who have autism. They had a lot of behaviors. So behaviorism is a relevant theory in my work."
This is problematic because it is completely lacking in detail. It does not describe how the specific work done by the student applies to a specific psychological theory. To fix this, there should be a description of a) what specific "behaviors" were displayed by these children and b) how the student applied the theory of behaviorism to manage/change such behaviors.

Here is another *poorly written* sample (don't do this): "I worked with clients who had mental disorders. Abnormal psychology was relevant because it discusses mental disorders."
This is problematic because it is completely lacking in detail. It does not describe how the specific work done by the student applies to a specific psychological theory. In addition, "abnormal psychology" covers many different theories – it is too broad. To fix this, there should be a) a description of what specific mental disorders were experienced by the clients at the field experience site, b) what specific work the student did which was related to the mental health problems experienced by clients, and c) a specific description of how the work of the student was an application of a specific theory (something more specific than "abnormal psychology", such as perhaps cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, humanistic therapy, etc.).

Citations should refer to peer-reviewed journals or academic books (a textbook is an acceptable academic book, for instance), not websites or popular press books.

List cited references at the end of this section in APA style.

Section 4. Competence Statement, Learning Strategies and Evaluation
Final Paper Only

A. List your Competence Statement and Learning Strategies listed on your field experience registration. Next, evaluate yourself on both the Competence Statement and the Learning Strategies that were listed on your field experience application form. To what extent did you achieve your desired competence and engage in the learning strategies listed on your AIA form? Please be honest in your responses – if you did not achieve desired competencies or engage in your learning strategies as much as desired, this will not be held against you in the evaluation of your paper.
B. Describe your experiences getting feedback and consultation from your supervisor. About how often did you receive feedback on your performance? To what extent was your supervisor

useful in helping you understand how to do the work you were performing? Do you think your understanding of a) how to perform relevant work duties and b) psychology applied to your field experience work improved as a result of your interactions with your supervisor?

Section 5. Strengths and Limitations
Final Paper Only

What strengths did you discover as a result of your internship? What weaknesses/areas for improvement did you discover as a result of your internship?

Section 6. Career Interests and Steps
Final Paper Only

1. How did your career interests change as a result of your internship experience? Why?
2. Looking at your career report from Psyc 407, please answer the following questions. *Please answer the questions separately for each career listed in the career report. List each career with responses to the following questions under each career.*
    a. How did your interest in *each career* change as a result of your field experience?
    b. In what way(s), if any, did your field experience help prepare you for *each career*? Did the field experience help you develop knowledge and/or skills that can be applied in each career?
    c. In what way(s) did the field experience help you understand the extent to which you possess the needed knowledge and skills to succeed in *each career* listed in the career report.
3. What career path do you plan to pursue? This is asking what you are hoping for your final career, which is not necessarily what you will be doing immediately after graduation with an undergraduate degree. For instance, you may plan on becoming a master's-level professional counselor, but you won't be able to pursue this career immediately upon graduation because you lack the required educational training for this career.
    a. Do you need to pursue any further formal education (at a college, university, trade school, or any other educational program) in order to pursue this career? If so, what education is needed?
    b. Do you need to gain any particular work experience(s) in order to pursue this career? If so, what experiences are needed?
    c. Do you believe you have the skills to succeed in this career? If not, how do you plan to obtain the needed skills?
4. In the short-term (immediately after graduation), what do you plan to do to help you meet your career goals? This may include relevant work/volunteer experiences, pursuing further education, or other items.

Section 7. Perceptions of Psychology
Final Paper Only

Which of your perceptions/beliefs regarding psychology changed during the course of your internship? How? In what way(s) do you think differently about psychology as a result of your internship? This section should contain between 200-500 words.

Section 8. Most Meaningful Experience
Final Paper Only

Describe the most meaningful learning experience at your field experience site. Specifically describe what occurred and why this experience was particularly meaningful in your learning.

Section 9. Activity Log
Final Paper Only

Create some sort of "activity log" which outlines how much time you spent on different types of activities. This does not need to be a "time card" – in fact it may be more helpful to you if you were to divide your activities into 3-8 categories (e.g., training, working with clients, meetings with supervisor, group sessions, etc.) and then list the approximate total number of hours spent working in each category. This would help others (e.g., me, future employers, future graduate programs, even yourself) better understand the nature of your experience. Then, add the numbers across the categories to create a total number of hours.

Example:

Individual meetings with clients: 50 hours

Meetings with supervisor: 20 hours

Research regarding community resources: 40 hours

Creating updated list of mental health resources in database: 20 hours

Phone calls with clients: 25 hours

Total: 155 hours