



PSY 224 Milestone Three Guidelines and Rubric

The final project is meant for you to propose a hypothetical study. You are not and should not be conducting human subjects research for this project. It is not necessary for the purposes of this assignment. All human subjects research requires written approval from the SNHU COCE Institutional Review Board in order to protect the welfare and ensure ethical treatment of the subjects.

Overview: In Milestone Three, you will submit an **outline** of your final project.

The outline should contain descriptions of the critical elements that you will include in the final paper and should be supported by at least six references. References should be listed to illustrate the literature you reviewed in Section I of the paper. Additionally, you should use references to support your hypothesis and design selection. The outline should be 3–4 pages long and contain all critical elements of the final paper. You should use the template provided in the Prompt section of this document to prepare the outline (see below). This template will also help you set up your paper for the final submission.

Prompt: The following template lists each of the sections for the final paper. As you create your outline, you should include each of these sections. However, since this is an outline, you do not need to include all the specific information. Instead, you should provide an overview of the main ideas that you intend to cover for each section of the paper. For example, for an outline of the introduction, you might describe your topic and its importance and then move on to your articles. Rather than provide a complete analysis of the articles, you would summarize the main points of the articles and discuss a few points you will touch on in your critique of the articles. Another example might be looking at the protection of participants. Here, rather than detailing your plan for participants, you might say something like “APA ethical standards for protecting participants will be followed.” Then, mention one or two things that this plan would include.

You should be sure to have a clear thesis for the paper and a clear hypothesis, and you should have begun to develop a conclusion that summarizes what you would expect to find by completing this experiment. You should also be sure to include in-text citations and a reference page for the outline. Please remember that the outline should be 3–4 pages long.

I. **Introduction (See sections 2.11 and 2.27 in the APA Manual)**

A. **Identify the topic and discuss its importance.**

B. **Summarize and critique articles for their appropriateness to your topic.**

You should include as many articles as you have for the paper and begin to provide an analysis of those articles that examines how they can support your research project, or any potential problems with those articles. (See the Final Project Guidelines and Rubric for specific details including bias and limitations and other factors.)

C. **Hypothesis**

1. **State your hypothesis**

Be specific and clear.

2. **Context**

Discuss how the hypothesis is related to the literature you have reviewed. Is it the same? Different? Or logically derived from research you have presented? Be sure to discuss how you have come to the hypothesis based on research.

II. Methods (See chapter 2 of the APA Manual)

A. Methodology

Here you should describe your research method and explain why you have chosen this method. Please refer to chapter 2 in the APA Manual to learn how to properly divide the methods section into subsections. This section can be a work in progress for the outline, but you should have the method you will use nailed down and include a brief description of how this method will be carried out.

B. Data Collection

1. Sampling Frame

The sampling frame is a list of all the members of the population you wish to examine. For example, you might wish to examine single moms between the ages of 18 and 24 who make less than \$40,000 a year.

2. Instrument

Identify the instrument you will use to gather data. You might use a standardized test to gather information on personality, or you might use a survey, or you might use a physiological recording device (like an EEG) to record brain activity. Also discuss how the data collected will address your hypothesis.

3. Protection of Participants

Explain the steps you will take to protect the participants. For example, who will have access to the data? Where/how will the data be stored? Will the participants suffer any adverse effects from the procedures of the experiment? Will they be anonymous?

III. Discussion (See sections 2.11, 2.25, 2.26, and 2.27 of the APA Manual)

A. Supports

You should begin to describe what kind of data will support your hypothesis.

B. Research Findings

What findings do you expect, and how can you clearly communicate them to your audience?

C. Further Research

For the outline, you should begin to look at areas where future research on this topic can be directed.

Specifically the following critical elements must be addressed:

I. Introduction

A. **Identify** and briefly summarize the **topic** related to psychology, which you will study.

B. **Summarize articles** relevant to the topic you want to research (see the Final Project Guidelines and Rubric for specific details).

C. Hypothesis

1. **State your hypothesis.** The hypothesis should be logical and appropriate to the topic you want to research.

2. Explain where your **hypothesis** fits in the **context** of the literature reviewed.

3. Discuss **specific examples** from relevant literature that support your hypothesis.

II. Methods

A. Methodology

1. Explain the **research design and method** you selected, and justify why they are appropriate for your research.
2. Discuss the **research participants** who will be involved in your study, including how they will be selected and how many will be used.

B. Data Collection

1. Describe your **sampling frame**.
2. Discuss the data collection **instrument** you will use and how the data collected will address your hypothesis.
3. Explain how you will ensure the **protection of participants** in your study and adherence to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists.

III. Discussion

- A. Using the articles you previously evaluated, explain how the evidence presented by the authors of the articles **supports** your research proposal.
- B. Explain how you would appropriately convey your **research findings** to your audience. How would this be written? What aspects of the research would be referenced?
- C. Explain what **further research** could be conducted that goes beyond or in a different direction than your research proposal.

Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: The outline must be submitted as a 3- to 4-page Microsoft Word document supported by at least six sources cited in APA format. You should use the template provided in the prompt area of this document to prepare the outline.

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (75%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Introduction: Identify Topic	Identifies and briefly summarizes the topic that will be studied	Identifies and briefly summarizes the topic that will be studied, but summary is cursory or irrelevant	Does not identify or summarize the topic that will be studied	5
Introduction: Summarize Articles	Summarizes the articles relevant to the topic to research	Summarizes the articles relevant to the topic to research, but summary is cursory or irrelevant	Does not summarize articles relevant to the topic to research	5
Introduction: Hypothesis: State Your Hypothesis	States a logical and appropriate hypothesis	States a hypothesis, but it is illogical or inappropriate	Does not state a hypothesis	10
Introduction: Hypothesis: Hypothesis Context	Explains where hypothesis fits in context of literature reviewed	Explains where hypothesis fits in context of literature reviewed, but explanation is cursory or illogical	Does not explain where hypothesis fits in context of literature reviewed	10
Introduction: Hypothesis: Specific Examples	Discusses specific examples from relevant literature that support the hypothesis	Discusses specific examples from relevant literature, but discussion is cursory or illogical	Does not discuss specific examples from relevant literature	5

		or not all examples support the hypothesis		
Methods: Methodology: Research Design and Methods	Explains the research design and method selected and justifies why they are appropriate	Explains the research design and method selected and justifies why they are appropriate, but the design or method is not appropriate for the research or justification is illogical	Does not explain the research design and method selected and justify why they are appropriate	5
Methods: Methodology: Research Participants	Discusses the research participants that will be involved in the study	Discusses the research participants that will be involved in the study, but discussion is cursory	Does not discuss the research participants that will be involved in the study	5
Methods: Data Collection: Sampling Frame	Describes an appropriate sampling frame	Describes the sampling frame, but it is not logical or appropriate	Does not describe the sampling frame	5
Methods: Data Collection: Instrument	Discusses the data collection instrument and how the data collected will address the hypothesis	Discusses the data collection instrument and how the data collected will address the hypothesis, but discussion is cursory or the data collection instrument would not address the hypothesis	Does not discuss the data collection instrument or how the data collected will address the hypothesis	5
Methods: Data Collection: Protection of Participants	Explains how to ensure the protection of participants and adherence to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists	Explains how to ensure the protection of participants and adherence to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists, but explanation is cursory or illogical	Does not explain how to ensure the protection of participants and adherence to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists	10
Discussion: Supports	Explains how the evidence presented by the authors supports the research proposal	Explains how the evidence presented by the authors supports the research proposal, but explanation is cursory or illogical	Does not explain how the evidence presented by the authors supports the research proposal	10
Discussion: Research Findings	Explains how to appropriately convey research findings to audience	Explains how to convey research findings to audience, but explanation is cursory or not appropriate	Does not explain how to convey research findings to audience	10
Discussion: Further Research	Explains what further research could be conducted that goes	Explains what further research could be conducted that goes	Does not explain what further research could be conducted	10

	beyond or in a different direction	beyond or in a different direction, but explanation is cursory or illogical	that goes beyond or in a different direction	
Articulation of Response	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5
Total				100%