

Personality Term Paper Assignment

Psychology 159, Spring 2019

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By now, you have chosen a public/historical figure. You are to conduct a psychobiography based on topics and discussions covered in this course. A psychobiography is an application of a psychological (personality) theory to describe a person and explain their behaviors. **Please read all instructions carefully!**

Assignment	Points Possible	Due Date
Part 1: Subject Profile	100	Friday March 8th, 2019 at 11:59 pm
Part 2: Psychobiography Term Paper	200	Thursday May 2nd, 2019 at 11:59 pm
Total Points	300	

Table 1: Term paper point breakdown

SUBJECT: You should gather enough substantive information about the person to be able to make inferences about the person's life, behaviors, and environment that describe them as a person, as well as explain their behaviors. For example, you could theoretically choose to write about Former President Barack Obama or activist Malala Yousafzai because they both have publicly available information about their health, behavior, and everyday environment.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY AND EMPIRICAL RESEARCH: In conducting a psychobiography, the paper should incorporate 2- 3 theoretical perspectives discussed in the course. You should also intertwine empirical literature to support the case profile.

TERM PAPER COMPONENTS: Below is an outline of components that should be incorporated into your term paper.

Case Introduction: This section should briefly introduce your subject, including demographic information such as age, gender, working status, education, and family composition. You will also need to explain why this person is famous or what this person is known for. This section should also introduce the three perspectives you are employing in this paper.

Perspectives: Perspectives could include psychodynamic theories, motivation, traits, learning theories, attachment theory, evolutionary psychology, or any other topics discussed in class. Each perspective should have its own section. Within each perspective you should incorporate at least 1 theoretical resource (i.e., peer reviewed journal, psychology handbook, and/or psychology book on personality theories) and 1 empirical (i.e., peer reviewed journal) article that supports or contributes to your discussion of this perspective. One theoretical resource can support 1 or 2 perspectives; however, you must have at least 1 unique empirical article for each perspective. In total, you should have **at least 4-6 (see Table 2 below)** substantive sources for your paper depending on the number of perspectives you choose. This is the bare minimum, so if you are hoping for a grade higher than the bare minimum, you should incorporate more outside research.

For Three perspectives Minimum Required Sources = At least six (≥ 6)		
Resource for Factual Evidence on Subject	At least one autobiography or biography	
Perspective Number One	At least one theoretical resource. (Can be used in #1 & #2)	At least one empirical article (Unique to this perspective)
Perspective Number Two	At least one theoretical resource. (Can be used in #1 & #3)	At least one empirical article (Unique to this perspective)
Perspective Number Three	At least one theoretical resource. (Can be used in #2 & #3)	At least one empirical article (Unique to this perspective)

Table 2: Outside sources requirements for term paper using a three-perspective example

In addition to discussing each perspective, you should have a developed discussion on how this perspective applies to your subject. For example, if you choose to focus on attachment theory, then you must discuss the theory itself, and then bring it back to your subject (e.g., how your subject illustrates the perspectives or how your subject goes against the perspective).

General Summary: How do all of the theories you discuss explain the subject as a whole? In this section, you will be tying all three perspectives into a general description of the subject. This section will serve as your conclusion.

FORMAT

The paper must follow APA format in terms of use of headers, references, and in-text citations. There are several useful resources on APA format on the internet, including the following websites:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

<http://www.uwsp.edu/PSYCH/apa4b.htm>

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/index.aspx>

You should include a title page and reference page(s) all in APA format. An abstract is optional. The title, abstract, and reference pages **do not** count toward your 5-7 pages of requested writing.

SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Turn your paper in as a Word document (e.g. doc or docx) to CatCourses by the **11:59 pm deadline on Thursday May 2nd, 2019**. Remember we cannot accept late work, so please contact us well in advance for any issues or questions you may have.
- Proofread your work carefully, and make sure that you have completed your paper following guidelines in totality. Make an appointment with the writing center and come to office hours for help with your writing process.
- There are many psychobiography papers on the internet. Please make sure all work is your own, and that you properly cite any work that is not. Review the policy on plagiarism in the syllabus and your undergraduate handbook, and speak to your Teaching Assistant should you have questions.