

DRAFT - Scoring Rubric for Theory Paper

| | Unacceptable | Acceptable | Target |
|--|---|---|--|
| | Points: 0-5 | Points: 6-8 | Points: 9-10 |
| Intro paragraph, closing paragraph | Missing, vague or incomplete | Introduces paper, closes paper | Introduces and makes interesting, provides good closure. |
| | Points: 0-10 | Points: 11-16 | Points: 17-20 |
| Describe the theory: who did it, what is does the theory say, etc. | Missing, vague, or incomplete | Missing some important details | Reasonably complete |
| | Points: 0-10 | Points: 11-16 | Points: 17-20 |
| How/why does this relate to the study of educational psychology | Missing, vague or incomplete | Missing some important details | Reasonably complete |
| | Points: 0-5 | Points: 6-8 | Points: 9-10 |
| Personal thoughts. Why did you pick this theory? What was particularly interesting? | Missing, vague or incomplete | Somewhat clear, some details | Reasonably complete |
| | Points: 0-10 | Points: 11-16 | Points: 17-20 |
| <p>Focused / Thesis / Topics: This paper should be about a psychological theory (or even part of a theory). STAY FOCUSED ON THE SPECIFIC THEORY OR THE PART YOU ARE WRITING ABOUT!</p> <p>The last sentence of the first paragraph should be the thesis statement. UNDERLINE IT. This is what the paper should be all about. Also, the first sentence of each paragraph should be what the rest of the paragraph is about (these are called topic sentences). UNDERLINE YOUR TOPIC SENTENCES AS WELL. Don't be afraid to start a new paragraph if the subject changes – even within what is below in recommendations.</p> | Disorganized and does not stay on topic. | Needs some work staying on point. | Paper is easy to read, is organized and stays on topic with regards to thesis and topic sentences. |
| | Points: 0-10 | Points: 11-16 | Points: 17-20 |
| <p>English grammar, follows guidelines for paper (length, etc.), Sources, etc.</p> <p>Not including the Cover or Sources, this paper should be 4-6 pages, double spaced in 10-12 point font, preferably Arial or Calibri or Times New Roman. Please do not use Comic Sans. Ever again. Seriously.</p> | many grammatical mistakes, guidelines not followed, lack of sources | a few minor grammatical errors, guidelines generally followed, at least 2 sources | few if any grammatical errors, guidelines followed, 3+ sources |

| Sequence | Written In | Notes |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Cover page | | Title should tell me what theory/theorist I'm about to read about! |
| Intro Paragraph | 3 rd Person | The last sentence of this paragraph is the thesis – THIS IS WHAT THE PAPER IS ABOUT! |
| Body Paragraphs 3-5 | 3 rd Person | The first sentence of each paragraph tells me what the paragraph is about. Add new paragraphs as needed. For example, you decide you need three paragraphs to describe the theory and tell me about who came up with it, etc. FINE. 3 paragraphs! 3 ideas starting with good topic sentences. |
| Closing Paragraph | 3 rd Person | Usually, the first sentence restates the thesis in different words. Then wrap up your paper. |
| Personal Thoughts Paragraph(s) | 1 st Person | Make this personal – why this theory and not others? |

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| Sources | No particular format required, but tell me where you got your information. You need a minimum of 3 reputable/appropriate sources, one of which can be your textbook. NO WIKIPEDIA, NO SIMPLY PSYCHOLOGY OR SIMILAR. Your textbook includes references in each chapter, so it might be a good idea to explore those. The SHSU library has a lot of authentic, electronic sources, so use that FREE resource for your research!! |
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