



PSY 330 Forensic Psychology

INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOPIC PAPER DRAFT AND COMPLETED PAPER

Topic Paper Draft

The Topic Paper Draft assignment requires you to write a draft (1-2 pages) on your pre-approved topic. Please email your topic idea to the instructor well before the due date.

Suggested Topics:

- The fairness of trial consultants
- Using 'death qualified' jurors in capital cases
- The 'standard' in sexual harassment cases
- Criminal profiling: fact or fiction
- The scientific validity of the polygraph
- The constitutionality of civil confinement of 'sexual predators'
- Treatment of the antisocial personality
- Treatment of sex offenders
- An inmate's right to refuse psychiatric treatment
- Personal injury cases and compensation for psychological damages
- The 'fairness' of jury selection
- Careers and training in forensic psychology
- Teaching incompetent defendants to be competent
- The role of the police psychologist
- Ethical dilemmas in forensic psychology

The paper must use scholarly sources (not the textbook) and cite in APA format. Please see the syllabus for library and citation help.

The draft assignment is worth 100 points and is due **Sunday 11:59 p.m. EST/EDT of Module 4**. Please submit both your draft and your final paper to the Dropbox. (These Dropbox baskets are linked to Turnitin.)

Grading Rubric for Topic Paper Draft (PSY 330)

(100 points total, 1-2 pages)

POSSIBLE POINTS:	CATEGORY:	ABOVE STANDARDS:	MEETS STANDARDS:	BELOW STANDARDS:	POINTS EARNED:
50	Content and Development	The topic is clearly defined and explained in the paper. The topic relates to the subject of Forensic Psychology. At least 3 primary source articles (not text books) are used and appear in Bibliography. (40-50 pts.)	The topic is satisfactorily defined and explained in the paper, although it lacks in areas such as depth of topic or clarity. The topic relates somewhat to the subject of Forensic Psychology. At least 2 primary source articles are used and appear in Bibliography. (21-39 pts.)	The topic is not satisfactorily defined or explained in the paper, and it severely lacks in areas such as depth of topic or clarity. The topic does not relate well to the subject of Forensic Psychology. 1 primary source articles was used and appears in Bibliography. (0-20 pts.)	
20	APA Style	The paper adheres to APA style. Citations follow APA guidelines (page #'s, author is cited properly). (15-20 pts.)	The paper is somewhat adequate in adhering to APA style and APA guidelines for citations. (9-14 pts.)	The paper has poor APA style and citations are incorrect or missing. (0-8 pts.)	
15	Format	All or most paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (10-15 pts.)	50-75% of paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (5-9 pts.)	<50% of paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (0-4 pts.)	
10	Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation	Correct grammar throughout paper, with few fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (≤ 3 sentences w/o errors). All or most sentences are complete, clear, concise, and well-constructed. (10 pts.)	Several areas with fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (4-7 sentences with errors.) 50-75% of sentences are complete, concise, and well-constructed (5-9 pts.)	Numerous areas with fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (8 or more sentences with errors). <50% of sentences are complete, concise, and well-constructed. (0-4 pts.)	
5	Following Directions	The correct number of words or pages is met. A title and Bibliography page is included. (5 pts.)	The paper is slightly too long or too short. Either the title page or Bibliography page is missing. (3-4 pts.)	The paper is significantly too long or too short. Either the title page or Bibliography page is missing. (0-2 pts.)	

Topic Paper (Final Paper)

The Topic Paper assignment requires you to complete a 6-10 page paper on your pre-approved topic and submit the finished version. The completed Topic Paper is worth 250 points and is due **Sunday 11:59 p.m. EST/EDT of Module 7.**

Grading Rubric for Topic Paper Final (PSY 330) (250 points total 6-10 pages)

POSSIBLE POINTS:	CATEGORY:	ABOVE STANDARDS:	MEETS STANDARDS:	BELOW STANDARDS:	POINTS EARNED:
125	Content and Development	The topic is clearly defined and explained in the paper. The topic relates to the subject of Forensic Psychology. At least 5 primary source articles (not text books) are used and appear in Bibliography. (100-125 pts.)	The topic is satisfactorily defined and explained in the paper, although it lacks in areas such as depth of topic or clarity. The topic relates somewhat to the subject of Forensic Psychology. At least 4 primary source articles are used and appear in Bibliography.(51-99-pts.)	The topic is not satisfactorily defined or explained in the paper, and it severely lacks in areas such as depth of topic or clarity. The topic does not relate well to the subject of Forensic Psychology. 3 or less primary source articles were used and appears in Bibliography. (0-50 pts.)	
50	APA Style	The paper adheres to APA style. Citations follow APA guidelines (page #'s, author is cited properly). (40-50 pts.)	The paper is somewhat adequate in adhering to APA style and APA guidelines for citations. (21-39 pts.)	The paper has poor APA style and citations are incorrect or missing. (0-20 pts.)	
50	Format	All or most paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (40-50 pts.)	50-75% of paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (21-39 pts.)	<50% of paragraph indentation, line spacing, and margins are correct. (0-4 pts.)	
15	Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation	Correct grammar throughout paper, with few fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (≤ 3 sentences w/o errors). All or most sentences are complete, clear, concise, and well-constructed. (12-15 pts.)	Several areas with fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (4-7 sentences with errors.) 50-75% of sentences are complete, concise, and well-constructed (8-11 pts.)	Numerous areas with fragmented sentences, incorrect punctuations, or misspellings. (8 or more sentences with errors). <50% of sentences are complete, concise, and well-constructed. (0-7 pts.)	

10	Following Directions	The correct number of words or pages is met. A title and Bibliography page is included. (9-10 pts.)	The paper is slightly too long or too short. Either the title page or Bibliography page is missing. (5-8 pts.)	The paper is significantly too long or too short. Either the title page or Bibliography page is missing. (0-4 pts.)	
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Topic Paper Presentation

Students will create a PowerPoint presentation to present their papers to the class by **Thursday p.m. EST/EDT of Module 8**. Students will then respond to at least two classmates' presentations by **Sunday p.m. EST/EDT of Module 8**.