

## Psychology 100 Assignments 1, 2 & 3

### Assignment #1 (15 Points)

#### Plagiarism Tutorial & Scientific American Article Reaction Paper

**Due Date: Thursday, 4/12 at the beginning of class**

**Early Due Date: Friday, 4/6 at the beginning of class**

(1 bonus point added to score if paper received on the early due date)

#### DIRECTIONS

##### Part 1: Understanding Plagiarism (5 Points)

You are going to write at least one short paper in this class and I want you to be sure to avoid plagiarism when writing it. Plagiarism occurs when you take someone else's words or ideas and use them as if they were your own. There are three common types of plagiarism that have occurred on this assignment in the past:

- Copying sentences word-for-word from the article and putting them in the assignment write-up
- Taking sentences or phrases from the article and changing a few words (often using a dictionary or thesaurus) before they are put in the assignment write-up
- Copying sentences or phrases from a web site

To make sure that you understand what plagiarism is, in this part of the assignment you are asked to successfully complete the Indiana School of Education plagiarism tutorial and test (<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html>). Read the material under the "IU Definition," "Overview," "Cases," "Examples," & "Practice" sections and then take the 10 question plagiarism "Test" at the end. Please note that this part of the assignment will take a significant amount of time; the introduction to the tutorial suggests setting aside 1-2 hours to complete it. **When you have answered all of the test questions correctly, print your "completion certificate" and submit it with your paper. Papers turned in for this class (Assignment #1 & Optional Assignment #3) without a completion certificate will not be graded until a completion certificate is received. Such papers will also be subject to relevant late penalties.**

One good way to avoid plagiarism on this assignment is to put the article away when you are writing your paper so that you have to put things in your own words and you aren't tempted to copy things word-for-word. A key component of getting full credit on this assignment involves using your own words. Students doing this will most likely earn full credit for the assignment. For additional information about plagiarism, please read the "How and When to Cite Other People's Work" handout at the following address: <http://www.psych.uw.edu/writingcenter/writingguides/pdf/howtocite.pdf>.

***Students who plagiarize on this assignment will receive a score of 0 and will NOT be able to redo the assignment.***

##### Part 2: Selecting Your Article

In this first writing assignment, I am asking you to select one of the major articles from the Scientific American magazine which should have come prepackaged with all new texts. It is also available on 2-hour reserve in the SCC Library and via the course website (<http://shoreline.edu/dchris/psych100/>, click on the "SA-Reader" link on the left side of the page). Please choose one of the four articles listed below (Note: there are additional articles in the reader that you are welcome to read but please don't use them for this assignment):

- The Science of Persuasion
- Sex, Math, and Scientific Achievement
- Mirrors in the Brain
- The Secret to Raising Smart Kids

##### Part 3: Writing Your Paper (10 Points)

After you have selected and read an article, please do the following:

1. **Share Your Personal Reaction.** In several paragraphs, share your personal reaction to what you read. What did you think about the article you selected? Did you learn anything new? Did you agree or disagree with the claims that were being made? Did the results seem obvious to you (be careful to avoid the hindsight bias) or would you not have been able to anticipate them ahead of time? Could you relate any of the content of the article to material covered in the book or in lecture? Feel free to summarize and discuss any relevant research if it would make your personal reaction clearer.

2. **Pick a Memorable Passage from the Article, Quote It, and Say Why You Selected It.** Find a sentence or two from your article that was most memorable, thought provoking, or struck you in some way. Perhaps it was even a quote that you disliked or disagreed with. Quote the passage in your paper (this is the **one** time in this assignment when you can copy a short section of the article) and then explain why you picked it. What made the statement you picked stand out? You may restate portions of your personal reaction section if necessary. This is the only time that you may quote your article. Students who quote more than one section of their paper as they write their personal reactions will lose points.
3. **Reference Your Article.** At the conclusion of your paper, please cite the article you read in APA format. The easiest way to do this is to view the electronic version of your article (available through the class website) and select the “Cite” option on the right hand side of the page. On the page that comes up, copy the text next to the APA reference of your article and simply paste it at the end of your paper.
4. **Use Section Headings.** Your paper should be organized into three sections: 1. Personal Reaction, 2. Quote, & 3. References. List each of these headings at the beginning of the corresponding section so that I can clearly see which section is which. In the quote section, isolate the quote from your written reaction to it so that quote stands by itself and is clearly identifiable.

#### **Guidelines for Paper #1**

Please note that on this assignment, students are expected to work independently and to do their own work. Your paper should be typewritten and double-spaced, with one-inch margins and a font size of 10 to 12. Please limit your written responses to 2 (minimum) to 3 (maximum) pages. If you need help with your paper, feel free to bring a draft to office hours and we can work on it together. (Note: I will not accept drafts that have been dropped off to be read and then returned at a later date.)

#### **What to Turn in**

- 2-3 page reaction paper that follows the requirement listed above
- Completion certificate from the plagiarism tutorial attached to the back
- Please turn in your paper and plagiarism certificate together

**Assignment #2 (5 Points)**  
**Research Databases Assignment**  
**Due Date: Thursday, 5/10 at the beginning of class**

**DIRECTIONS**

1. **Find an Article in the Journal Called Current Directions in Psychological Science.** Using the Academic Search Premier database available through the SCC library, **find an article in the journal Current Directions in Psychological Science from issue 1 (February) or 2 (April) of 2006.** You can access this database through the SCC Library web site (<http://www.shoreline.edu/library/>). Instructions on how to use the SCC library resources to do this part of the assignment are available on the “Tutorials” link of the class webpage. Students turning in an article from the wrong year or other electronic sources such as ProQuest, other journals, or simple web pages will lose points. If you have trouble finding information about your topic, please talk to a librarian or me for assistance. Once you find your article, **reference your article in APA format on a document.** The easiest way to do this is to view the electronic version of your article and select the “Cite” option on the right hand side of the page. On the page that comes up, copy the text next to the APA reference of your article and simply paste it at the end of your paper.
2. **Find a Second Article in the PsycArticles Database.** After you have located your primary article, find a second article in the PsycArticles database that has some relationship to the article you found in the Current Directions in Psychological Science journal. For instance, both articles should address similar aspects of the topic you selected. Instructions on how to use the SCC library resources to do this part of the assignment are available on the “Tutorials” link of the class webpage. Once you find your second article, **reference your article in APA format on a document.** The easiest way to do this is to view the electronic version of your article and select the “Cite” option on the right hand side of the page. On the page that comes up, copy the text next to the APA reference of your article and simply paste it at the end of your paper.
3. **Use a Section Heading.** Near the top of your page, after you have written your name, type the heading “References” just above your two citations.

**Guidelines for Assignment #2**

Please note that on this assignment, students are expected to work independently and to do their own work. Your paper should be typewritten and double-spaced, with one-inch margins and a font size of 10 to 12. Make sure your name is at the top of the page. Your page should contain the APA references for the two articles you found.

**What to Turn in**

- 1 page paper with your two academic references in APA format, with the proper heading above them

## Assignment #3 (OPTIONAL, 10 Points)

Academic Articles Reaction Paper

**Due Date: Thursday, 5/10 at the beginning of class**

### Directions

In this optional assignment, you are asked to write a short (2-3 page) reaction paper based on the Current Directions in Psychological Science article you found while doing Assignment #2.

1. **Read and Summarize the Current Directions in Psychological Science Article You Found for Assignment #2.** In a few paragraphs and **in your own words**, describe the main points and claims of the article you selected. Describe the ideas and concepts as you would to someone who was unfamiliar with it. How would you explain the article to a friend who has never taken a psychology course or to your parents? Feel free to summarize any relevant research if it would make your explanation clearer. Be sure to avoid plagiarism when writing your paper (See Part 1 of Assignment #1 and make sure that you have already turned in the plagiarism tutorial completion certificate).
2. **OPTIONAL: Read and Summarize PsychArticles Article You Found for Assignment #2.** In a few paragraphs and **in your own words**, describe the main points and claims of the article you selected. Describe the ideas and concepts as you would to someone who was unfamiliar with it. How would you explain the article to a friend who has never taken a psychology course or to your parents? Feel free to summarize any relevant research if it would make your explanation clearer. Be sure to avoid plagiarism when writing your paper (See Part 1 of Assignment #1 and make sure that you have already turned in the plagiarism tutorial completion certificate).
3. **Share Your Personal Reaction.** Share your personal reaction to the article you selected. What did you think about the article(s) you selected? Did you learn anything new? Did you agree or disagree with the claims that were being made? Did the results seem obvious to you (be careful to avoid the hindsight bias) or would you not have been able to anticipate them ahead of time? Could you relate any of the content of the article to material covered in the book or in lecture?
4. **Use Section Headings.** Your paper should be organized into three sections: 1. Summary, 2. Personal Reaction, & 3. References. List each of these headings at the beginning of the corresponding section so that I can clearly see which section is which.

*Students who plagiarize will receive a score of 0 and will NOT be able to redo the assignment.*

### **Guidelines**

Please note that on this assignment, students are expected to work independently and to do their own work. Your paper should be typewritten and double-spaced, with one-inch margins and a font size of 10 to 12. Please limit your written responses to 2 (minimum) to 3 (maximum) pages (do not include the attached article print out in this page limit). If you need help with your paper, feel free to bring a draft to office hours and we can work on it together. (Note: I will not accept drafts that have been dropped off to be read and then returned at a later date.)

### **What to turn in:**

- 2-3 page paper which includes:
  - a 2-4 paragraph summary of your Current Directions in Psychological Science article and, if you want, your PsycArticles article under the “Summary” section
  - your personal reaction to the article(s) you read under the “Personal Reaction” section
  - APA formatted references to your two articles at the end of your paper under the “References” section