

Psychology 202 Research Paper Assignments 1 & 2

Paper #1 (15 points) Due: Monday 2/6

Paper #2 (15 points) Due: Monday 3/12

(Both are to be handed in at the beginning of class)

Instructions

These two assignments will ask you to pick two behavioral neuroscience topics that you would like to learn more about. You are free to select any topics you like as long as they have some connection to biopsychology. All articles must at least somehow address the biology associated with your topic (e.g. there should be some mention of things such as neurotransmitters, brain areas, receptors, brain waves, genes, etc...). Articles that only focus on psychological factors are not appropriate for this assignment and points will be deducted if you select one. Articles that address both biological and psychological factors are completely appropriate. For the first assignment, select a single topic and then follow the directions listed under Part I and Part II below. For the second assignment, you are asked to go through the same steps with a second topic.

Part I:

Locate three articles related to the topic you selected. For two of your articles, print the abstracts. For those of you who don't know, an abstract is a brief summary of a research study that appears at the beginning of its write up. For your third article, you need to print out the entire text of the article. Instructions on what to do with this third article are described below. To track down your articles, you are encouraged to use the SCC Library. All of the articles that you pick need to come from academic or peer-reviewed sources. To find an article like this, I would suggest using either journals physically stored at the SCC library (the journals "Science" and "Nature" are two very prestigious journals that you might want to check out) or the on-line databases such as Ebsco and Proquest (available at <http://www.shoreline.edu/library/>). You may access the databases from on campus or at home. Please check the appropriate box in each database to insure that you find the right kind of article (In Proquest, check the "Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed" box. In Ebsco, the box you check depends on the particular Ebsco database you are using. See me or a librarian if you have questions). Articles from newspapers (e.g., New York Times), popular magazines (e.g., Psychology Today, Newsweek, Time), book reviews from academic journals, or websites not affiliated with academic journals are NOT acceptable for this assignment and students will lose points if these kinds of articles are selected. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of your articles or are having trouble finding what you want, please ask me or one of the librarians for help.

A special caution on using articles from Scientific American magazine: I am using a number of articles from Scientific American as optional assignments for this class. I ask that you NOT USE any of these optional assignment articles for your required research paper assignments. For a complete list of the optional assignment articles, please see the "Assignments" link on the course web site (<http://shoreline.edu/dchris/psych202/>). If you use any of the optional assignment articles for either of these required assignments, *you will receive a 6 point deduction on your paper and you will need to redo the assignment with appropriate articles.*

Part II:

For your full-text article, read it and please do the following:

- a. Summarize the methods and results of the study. This should take approximately 2-4 paragraphs, depending on your article. For tips on summarizing a research article, see the "summarizing a research article" pdf at the following link: <http://www.psych.uw.edu/writingcenter/writingguides/pdf/summarizing.pdf>.
- b. In the final paragraph(s), share your personal reaction to the study. Did you agree with the authors' conclusions? Did you learn anything new? Were the findings consistent with anything that was presented in the text or lecture? What are some of the implications of this research? Could you relate the results to your life in any way?

Your total paper should be 2-3 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. On the back of your paper, staple the two abstracts and paper clip the complete text of the article you summarized to the back of it and turn them all in on the due dates listed above.