

Psychology 236 Research Paper Assignment

15 points

Due: Monday 5/2

(To be handed in at the beginning of class)

Instructions

This assignment will ask you to pick a topic somehow related to the field of personality that you would like to learn more about. You are free to select any topic you like as long as it has some connection to personality. For this assignment, please follow the directions listed under Part I and Part II below.

Part I:

Locate three academic articles related to the personality 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 the article 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. All of the articles you select for this assignment need to come from academic journals and at least one needs to come from the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (JPSP), which is one of the premier journals in the field of personality research. This journal is part of the PsycARTICLES database which can be accessed through EBSCO. If you wish, all three of your articles may come from this prestigious source.

To find you're your articles, please use the on-line databases such as Ebsco and/or Proquest (available at <http://www.shoreline.edu/library/>). You may access the databases from on campus or (if you have a SCC email address) at home. Please check the appropriate box in each database to ensure 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.

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://depts.washington.edu/psywc/209guides.shtml>.
- 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.