

Abnormal Psychology (PSY 210)
Extra Credit Paper
Professor Jennings

Submission Deadline: On or before April 15th

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER:

This is an extra credit paper worth **10 points** toward your total final grade. Your paper should be a summary of a selected article that you choose from a reputable source related to the topic of behavior. Acceptable sources would include articles of at least 4 pages, but no longer than 12 pages from a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal. The article must be published from 2000 to the present.

Your paper must be typed, double-spaced and **one page only**. The font size should be either 10 or 12 point. You should include your name and section number on the back of the paper only. Please do not submit your paper in a plastic binder or folder.

The title of your article should not be included at the top of the paper or in the body of the paper. The title of the article should only appear in the reference at the bottom of your paper. **The first sentence of your paper should include the author of the article you are summarizing and the date of the publication.** Examples of how you may start include: As Aronson (2002) discovered that...or Aronson (2002) suggests in his article...or Aronson (2002) states that...found that...etc.

The bottom of your paper should include the reference: author (last name, first initial). If there is more than one author, all the authors must be named in the reference, but not the body of the paper.) The body of the paper can say, Aronson et al. (2002)...). An example of the APA (American Psychological Association) method that your paper should follow to cite your reference, looks like this:

Murray, B. (2000). Teaching students how to learn. *Monitor on Psychology*, Vol. 31 (8), pp. 64-68.

The reference should be single spaced and the second line should be indented.

The summary that you write should not be an opinion paper or personal feelings paper. You need to read an article and then summarize the article in your own words. Try not to use direct quotes. If you do, be sure to follow the APA format for direct quotes, do not copy directly from the article. You will be limited to ONE direct quote ONLY should you elect to do so. Your job will be to rewrite what you read...in other words, paraphrase.

Your paper will be graded on the selection of your article, the content, the organization of your paper, and the clarity and coherence of your writing. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, style, all count in the evaluation.

Grading Criteria:

An “A” level paper will receive 7-10 points:

The student uses a scholarly, peer-reviewed article to summarize that is about 4-12 pages in length on a topic clearly related to psychology. The student makes a copy of the article and reads it several times, making comments in the margin and highlighting important sections of the article. The student has full understanding of the article and captures the essence of the article in a clear and concise one page summary. The student manages to address what the article is about, and if it is about an experiment, the student explains the author’s hypothesis and if it was supported. If the student is summarizing an experimental research article, the student relies on the Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion sections to write the summary. It is not necessary for the student to understand the statistics used in the Results section, but the student must report whether the findings support the hypothesis and what the implications are for the research.

The paper has less than two spelling errors and is grammatically correct, captures the essence of the article and is clearly written. The APA format is followed and the reference is properly cited.

A “B” level paper will receive 4-6 points:

The student selects a topic clearly related to psychology but uses a more readable, less scholarly article to summarize such as Psychology Today, Time Magazine or Newsweek. The student follows the same procedure as above, and writes a clear and concise summary that captures the essence of the article. The paper is grammatically correct, and has more than 4 spelling errors. The student follows APA format and the reference is appropriately cited.

A “C” level paper will receive 1-3 points:

The student submits a paper that meets the requirements of the assignment. The student has done a satisfactory job with the assignment, but the paper is not as clearly written as an “A” or “B” level paper and/or may have cited the reference improperly.

No points will be awarded for a paper that falls below a C level of work.