Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Per the course syllabus you are required to write a research paper in this course. The research paper and associated assignments account for 29% of your grade. The associated assignments (P 1-4) are intended to help you produce a more polished final paper (P5).

**ASSIGNMENT** **POINTS DUE DATES**

P1. Select a topic 10 Wk 1

P2. Annotated bibliography 20 Wk 2

P3. Outline 20 Wk 3

P4. Abstract 20 Wk 4

P5. Paper 100 Wk 5

**TIPS**

* Use the resources available in module 4. Paper
* Use APA style (consistently use either the 6th or 7th edition through the entire paper)
* Be mindful of due dates
* Use the Writing Center and the Online Library

**Instructions**: This paper is a chance for you to learn about a topic of interest relevant to psychology. The broad topic is psychology. You will narrow your topic, gather information about that topic, and then write a 2 to 4-page paper on your well defined, unique topic. The grading criteria and descriptions are included below. The rubric is available on page 2.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grading criteria** | **Points** | **Description** |
| Complete | 40 | The paper represents a thorough discussion of a topic relevant to psychology. |
| Correct | 20 | The information in the paper is accurate and based on scholarly sources. |
| Clear | 10 | The information was presented in an organized and logical way. |
| Concise | 10 | The paper was not marked by redundancy. |
| Creative | 10 | The paper can be described as original and unique. |
| Overall impression | 10 | The first and last of impression of this paper was favorable. |
| Total | 100 |  |
| Grading criteria | Points |  |
| Complete**40** | 10101010 | The topic is clearly defined The connection between the topic and psychology is apparentThe paper represents a full discussion of a precisely defined topicThe paper includes an introduction, supporting details and explanations and a conclusion |
| Correct**20** | 5555 | There were in text citations throughout the paperThe paper is based on 3 sourcesThe sources used are scholarly or acceptableAPA style is consistent throughout the paper |
| Clear**10** | 442 | The paper was written with an academic toneThe paper is free from most grammatical and mechanical errorsHeadings were effectively used |
| Concise**10** | 55 | The paper is not redundantPrecise language was used (effective communication – not wordy) |
| Creative**10** | 55 | Marked by originalityUnique topic selection and eloquent word arrangement |
| Overall impression**10** | 3331 | The paper includes between 2 and 4 pages of contentThe introduction has an attention grabber and an overviewThe conclusion has a summary and a zingerPaper was submitted on time and in the proper format |
| Subtotal | 100 | 90- 100A | 89-80 B | 79-70 C | 69-60 D | 59 below F |

Picking a Topic | <https://guides.lib.byu.edu/c.php?g=216340&p=1428396>

Before you begin searching for articles, it helps to have a topic in mind. Start broad and brainstorm. Ask yourself:

* What am I interested in?
* What have I heard in the news?
* What’s something that affects me personally?

It is important to pick a topic that is relevant to you personally, not just one that you think you will be able to find a lot of information on. There is information out there on every topic (the trick is finding the right key words, and we'll address that in [Finding Articles](http://guides.lib.byu.edu/aecontent.php?pid=44757&sid=2728484)), so don't worry about being able to find articles.  Remember, you're going to be spending quite a bit of time with this topic, so pick one that you're going to enjoy writing about.