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.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** | | 10  10  10  10 | | The topic is clearly defined  The connection between the topic and psychology is apparent  The paper represents a full discussion of a precisely defined topic  The paper includes an introduction, supporting details and explanations and a conclusion | |
| Correct  **20** | | 5  5  5  5 | | There were in text citations throughout the paper  The paper is based on 3 sources  The sources used are scholarly or acceptable  APA style is consistent throughout the paper | |
| Clear  **10** | | 4  4  2 | | The paper was written with an academic tone  The paper is free from most grammatical and mechanical errors  Headings were effectively used | |
| Concise  **10** | | 5  5 | | The paper is not redundant  Precise language was used (effective communication – not wordy) | |
| Creative  **10** | | 5  5 | | Marked by originality  Unique topic selection and eloquent word arrangement | |
| Overall impression  **10** | | 3  3  3  1 | | The paper includes between 2 and 4 pages of content  The introduction has an attention grabber and an overview  The conclusion has a summary and a zinger  Paper 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.