

PSY 5001

Assignment # 1

Due Sept 27 at the beginning of class

Please write in essay format a response to BOTH of the following:

- A) We have discussed at length current issues in Psychology pertaining to scientific misconduct and fraud. What do you see as the major issues plaguing our field and how do you think we can begin to overcome these problems? Name at least two actions you plan to take as a junior scientist to reduce the amount of fraud in your specific area of research. Describe at least one novel strategy that you think senior researchers should implement to make a positive change for the scientific integrity of the field (Psychology in general).
- B) Describe a research question that pushes the boundaries of ethical conduct. Describe how you would attempt to address this research question, while meeting the APA and IRB ethical requirements. Thus, you might describe an experimental design that is a compromise from the perfect research design in order to mitigate ethical concerns. This response can be written essay-style rather than following formal APA style for an empirical Methods section but will provide enough procedural details to understand the design of the study and the experience for the participants. For example, you might indicate that you are interested in studying the effects of separation of parents and children during immigration to the U.S., but a true experiment would violate ethical concerns. Therefore, you could decide to do follow-up assessments of children and parents that were separated recently under Trump's administration. You would indicate how you would do the assessments (e.g., clinical interviews, self-report surveys, stress tests etc.), how many participants you would interview, and how you would recruit and incentivize them etc.

Length and Format

Write approximately 10 double spaced pages in font size 12 using standard font, and page margins of 1" all the way around. I am concerned more with the content than the absolute number of words/pages for the assignments, but assignments of 3 pages for instance will not be considered adequate. Please ensure your name is in the header of the paper. You should cite articles as needed and may have a single reference page for both responses. Use APA style for your reference page. Everything you cite must appear in your reference page. See below for a link to APA style or refer to the APA manual.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Please print a hard copy of your paper and bring to class on the due date. Late papers will receive a deduction of 2% for every day late and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.

General Tips on Writing:

Paragraph Development

Every paragraph should be fully developed. That means that each should contain an opening sentence that indicates that main argument or thesis. Each should also contain several supporting statements that back up that argument with evidence. Then you should wrap up your arguments with a concluding statement, preferably in your own words, not a series of quotations or references, but a summary statement that consists of your own ideas for how the facts that you have cited support your argument, or connect to your next paragraph. Every fact or idea that is NOT an original idea (of yours) or a summary statement to synthesize earlier presented information MUST be cited. Make sure that you connect or link your paragraphs, which should each be in support of separate ideas. If you are about to make a distinct point, begin a new paragraph – but make sure that point is well supported. A paragraph should never consist of only one or two sentences!!! Also, in general, it is best to move from your weakest to your strongest arguments – end strong!

And don't "fence-sit". Although it is always possible to argue for the pros and cons on both sides of an argument, it is best to take a strong stance on a particular point of view and argue convincingly for it. The best way to show that you have considered the other side is to consider those points and then argue against them. In this way you have indicated counterpoints and rebuttals against them, while supporting a consistent argument. This type of writing will be compelling and will earn you points, because it shows critical thinking.

Try to write using technical terms and professional jargon. Do not write the same way you speak in common, slang conversation. For example, do not write "An experiment he did with kids". Instead write "An experiment was conducted with children between the ages of..." Do not use the terms "since" and "while" unless you are referring to a temporal context. Please pay attention to proper punctuation. Have your paper proofread by a classmate if necessary.

Do not assume the reader understands the point you are trying to make unless you explain it very explicitly. If you write "boys were observed hitting more often than girls", follow that up with why that matters for your study, or argument. "Therefore, it is assumed that boys engage in more aggressive play than girls". Always make it VERY explicit for the reader why the facts you are citing fit into your main argument and where you are going. It should be very obvious to the reader from your points and the flow of your writing where you are going with your reasoning and logic. Do not leave the reader to fill in the gaps. They should not be wondering "I think this is what the writer meant to say here". Remember you are writing for an audience, not for yourself.