

PSY 120 Alternate Projects To Satisfy the Research Requirement

Students who do not wish to participate as subjects in the department's on-going research projects may fulfill the PSY 120 research requirement by satisfactorily completing the alternate projects described below.

These alternate projects involve relating current newsstand material to research studies described in your text or in lecture. You are to evaluate statements from a number of papers or articles equivalent to the number of research participation credits required. Each paper equals 2 credits, the equivalent to participation in a one-hour experiment session. No more than two statements are to come from the same article. Completing the PreScreen (1 credit) and Seven (7) papers are required to fulfill a requirement of 15 credits (fall and spring), and three (3) papers are required to fulfill a requirement of 6 credits (summer).

Each evaluation should be at least one typewritten/printed page long (double-spaced) and no more than three pages. Remember, it is not how much you write, but what you write that counts.

1. You should reference a newspaper or magazine article published within the last year. This article should concern a topic of interest to psychologists (and to you!). It is acceptable to get the article from the internet. You need to cite this article in your paper. If you use an article from the internet, please also include a link to the article in your paper.
2. In your paper, clearly cite the statement you intend to evaluate on the basis of research evidence.
3. In your paper, introduce the topic by discussing the cited statement in terms of the context of the article and in terms of the interest to psychologists.
4. Describe at least one specific research study from your text or one that was discussed in lecture which directly relates to the statement you are evaluating. Make specific reference to the text page number or lecture date and identify the study.
5. Discuss the implications of the study results, including your evaluation of: (a). Existence and/or appropriateness of controls; (b). Generalizability from the subjects in the study; (c). Relationship between the variables studied and the variables in the statement you are evaluating.
6. Specify the independent and dependent variables (where applicable) and indicate what specific inference can be made from the evidence (e.g., can you infer that one variable causes another to change?).
7. Evaluate the original statement on the basis of the research you have discussed.

The paper will be graded as either satisfactory, or unsatisfactory. You may have your first paper checked by your TA before continuing with the other papers, if you choose.

Be sure to include your full name, your student identification number, email address, and your instructor's name on each paper. Turn in your completed papers by submitting them to the psychstudies@purdue.edu email address with the subject line: Alternative Assignment. All Alternate Assignment submissions are due by 11:59pm on the last day of classes for the semester.