General Guidelines for a Research Paper

For Psych 141 Human Lifespan Development

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Author Note

This assignment is being presented to Dr. Cheryl Williams-Jackson in Spring 2018 for the Psychology 141, Section 3362 Final Research Paper. This guideline will be updated during class time. This assignment supports the Course Learning Outcomes that upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to: Apply the developmental research and theory to real-life situations.
Abstract

This Research Paper will assist the student in learning to “Describe and evaluate the major psychological theories of human development.” For this assignment, students will read an original source in psychology and write a short report on what was read. One purpose of this assignment is to practice finding and using reliable information sources in psychology, so that in the future students can continue to learn from recent psychology research. Another purpose is to explore theories in development as they relate to various developmental stages.
General Guidelines for a Research Paper

For Psych 141 Human Lifespan Developments

The following information provides general guidelines for writing this paper.

1) Choose the preferred age period, developmental period, and the topic.

2) Format for papers:
   a. **Page one:** The first page should include a cover page similar to the one in this guideline. Notice the heading, margins, etc. are APA format.
   b. **Length:** 3-5 pages double-spaced. Papers must be at least 3-full pages to receive credit. This guideline is written in double-space.
   c. **Margins:** 1-inch margins all around.
   d. **Font:** 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font.
   e. **Headers:** The paper must include headers to separate sections of your paper.
   f. **Source:** Cite your sources.

3) Due dates for the papers are listed in the syllabus. You will be given the option of modifying your paper, if submitted by **Due Date 1**, to improve your grade.

**Requirements**

**Requirements for the Research You Select to Write About**

Note: *Do not* use bullets in your paper

- It must be an article in a scholarly psychology journal.
- It must be related to the content of Lifespan Development (Early, Middle, Adolescence, Young Adult, Middle Adult, Late Adult, End of Life)
- Select a specific topic within your selected lifespan age.
• A recent publication dates no earlier than 2007.
• It must be empirical, an original research. Do you see “Methods” or “Procedures”?
• It must be something that you can understand. If you feel that the article you have picked is beyond your grasp, pick another one.

Detailed Instructions

Step 1 – Select an appropriate article. If you have any doubts as to whether your selection meets these requirements, ask questions in class. Ask questions early and often.

Step 2 – Make a complete printout of the article, including the references. Highlight or underline the important points.

Step 3 – Write a report on the article you selected.

Step 4 – Submit your paper ONLY to the Turn-it-in area.

Step 5 – Turn-in a hardcopy of your paper and your highlighted photocopy/printout of the article by the due date.

Content

Note: Do not number your sections.

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction to your paper
4. Article/Research Study Overview:
   a. Summarize the background information that was available to the authors that prompted them to do the study – state why the study was done. Reference the
source of your information through in-text citations, using the name and date system of APA style.

b. Discuss the hypothesis or research question of the study.

c. Describe the methods (subjects, type of research method, Do not include statistical methods.

d. What were the results of the study?

e. What was the conclusion or discussion of the study? Did it support or refute the original hypothesis? What are the implications for further research?

5. Conclusion: Reflect on the article and what key information you feel should be shared with the profession?

6. Include a reference page in APA format.

7. At least 3-6 APA in-text citations for each article listed in your reference section are required. Any in-text citations discussed in the paper must be listed in the reference.

**Plagiarism.** The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one’s own, without acknowledgement. This includes all group work and written assignments. Although you are assigned a group, this is specifically as support, but each individual must submit their own written report.

*Ask question early and often.*