
Research Paper

Student pairs will write a research paper on a form of social injustice occurring in within the U.S. or another country. This form of social injustice does not have to be limited to the topics discussed in class. Each student/student pair must incorporate at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles into the paper. Papers should be 10-12 pages in length (see below for further formatting details). **Direct quotations are not allowed**; however, students may paraphrase material. Paraphrasing still requires proper APA citations.

General Formatting Requirements

1. A cover page
2. Running Head (upper left-hand corner of the header)
3. Page numbering (upper right-hand corner of the header)
4. 1” margins on all sides
5. Strict double-spacing (no additional space before or after each line)
6. Times New Roman font
7. All text (with the exception of headings within the body of the paper) should be left-justified (i.e., do not “Justify” the text of your paper as the spacing will be off).
8. Written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references

Paper Length, Source Requirements, and Structure

1. The paper must meet the minimum requirement of ten pages in length (not inclusive of the cover page or references).
2. Only scholarly, peer-reviewed sources will be accepted (both theoretical and empirical in nature).
3. The minimum number of sources required is ten.

Paper Structure: The structure of the paper will include four main sections.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Introduce specific topic to be analyzed
 - B. Provide any relevant historical information pertaining to the respective issue(s), theory (or theories) and policy.
 - C. Thesis statement – The thesis statement should be a concise and declarative statement illustrating your assessment of the issue (i.e., what you have to say about your chosen topic, what is your position?)
 - D. Briefly describe your plan of action to analyze your chosen topic, and underscore your thesis (i.e., lay out a “road map” for the reader).

- II. Literature Review (The following describes an integrated literature review)
 - A. Provide an in depth analysis of your chosen topic, identified in the introduction, utilizing information garnered from scholarly sources, combined with your own original thoughts (i.e., critical analysis)
 - 1. Summarize prior research
 - 2. Critique prior research
 - 3. Present pertinent conclusions (in brief) – more substantive conclusions will be addressed in Part III of your paper
 - B. Provide a summary that will naturally lead into your Conclusions.
- III. Conclusions
 - A. Summarize your assessment of the issue (i.e., chosen topic); the utility of existing information; and the efficacy or futility of current policy in place to address the issue.
 - B. Reference back to substantive examples from your sources
 - C. Provide your concluding thoughts on:
 - 1. What policy changes need to be made, and what the implications of those changes might mean with respect to better addressing the issue
 - 2. Future research needs
- IV. References (APA-style references for all scholarly sources used in your paper)

Grading (A more thorough breakdown of scoring will be provided soon)

- 1. Completing all areas of the assignment.
- 2. Writing mechanics
- 3. Critical thinking. Concluding/summary paragraphs must show evidence of sophisticated, novel, and insightful interpretations of past research. Do not simply end a paragraph/section by stating the conclusion of a study.
- 4. Incorporate at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. You may use alternative information to supplement your thesis; however, they will not count as part of the 10 journal articles required.
- 5. Following the aforementioned structure and guidelines.
- 6. Following proper APA format throughout the paper.

Proper Submission

- 1. This assignment must be submitted 24-hours prior to official submission to the instructor. Students are expected to fix citation errors flagged by the Originality Report generated by www.turnitin.com.
- 2. In addition to uploading the assignment to www.turnitin.com, it must be e-mailed as an attachment to the instructor by the due date and time specified on the syllabus. Be sure to check the syllabus for accepted file types (Page 4 of the syllabus under **Assignment/Exams**).
- 3. No late submissions will be accepted.