

Research Paper Assignment

Introduction:

The purpose of the writing workshop is to teach you, the student, how to read and think critically, and to communicate clearly and concisely in a professional style. This assignment is designed to provide a medium through which you can improve your research and writing skills while increasing your knowledge about the health professions field.

The final product of the assignment will be a paper on the general topic of drugs. The more specific thesis of the paper will be left to the student and may concern, but is not limited to: a treatment program, a policy, drug addiction, or risk factors for drug addiction. For example, the paper may be an evaluation of a program or policy. All papers must incorporate one theory related to the chosen topic and thesis.

The principal thinking and writing skills to be developed are analytical and critical in nature. This will be accomplished via the research process, and the use of documentation to support the thesis. Therefore, there will be substantial practice reading and paraphrasing articles from scholarly journals.

The task of writing the paper will be spread throughout the semester into several steps, inclusive of choosing a specific topic and a thesis, finding evidence to support the thesis, learning to critique scholarly research, developing an outline, and finally composing the best paper you have ever written! This paper is intended to be a fairly complete exploration of the topic, culminating with a recommendation for specific action intended to address the issue(s) being examined.

The process of writing the paper has been broken down into 3 steps, which will be graded and/or assessed, and weighted separately from your final research paper. Each step is described in detail in separate handouts; however, here are brief descriptions of each:

Step One: Choosing a Topic and Thesis + Oral Presentation

Handout – Part I: Topic Presentation, Reference List (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

The general topic of drugs has been chosen as the “theme” for this term, but you must develop a more specific topic. In the course of narrowing the topic, you will need to conduct document research on the web and/or at the library. Choose a topic that can be handled in a relatively short (8-10 page) paper.

Once you have selected your topic you will need to develop a thesis. The thesis differs from the topic in that the topic tells what you are writing about, while the thesis states what you are going to say about the topic. For example, if the topic is "Do traditional rehabilitation methods effectively decrease the likelihood of someone relapsing following treatment for addiction?", then one might develop the following thesis: “There exists a need to study the efficacy of traditional rehabilitation methods for drug addiction, versus more progressive and experimental ones in an effort to discern the most salient methods available.” Keep in mind that you are not being graded on your opinion, but on your ability to communicate and support a point of view (your thesis). Supporting the thesis means utilizing evidence to clarify and support the point of view, and that evidence comes from your research.

Topic and Thesis Oral Presentation: This will be a graded oral presentation, using only a 4X6 note card. The day of your presentation you will turn in a type written, double-spaced description of your topic and thesis (minimum of one half-page in length). A handout will be available online that will further address the details of this assignment.

Step Two: Literature Search

Handout – Part I: Topic Presentation, Reference List (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

A list of 10 references (scholarly journal articles) in APA style format will need to be compiled. The references must be empirical or theoretical journal articles, which are from scholarly journals. Newspaper articles, magazine articles, “bulletins” or newsletters are not acceptable. See the following URL for a description of how to differentiate scholarly journal articles from popular magazine articles: http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/articles_scholarly.htm

For additional help and examples of APA in-text citations and references, the following web page provides links to several sources: http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm
You will also find other sources for APA at: (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

Additional details regarding the requirements for this assignment are available on the same handout as the one for the Topic and Thesis Oral Presentation. Please read the requirements carefully. Failure to adhere to the requirements will result in a substantial loss of points.

Step Three: Article Critiques I – III

Handout – Part III: Article Critiques I-III (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

The Article Critiques are more in depth analyses of four scholarly research articles. The articles which you will be required to critique have been predetermined. You will be informed of what the articles will be at the appropriate times throughout the term. You will be preparing a 2-3 page critique for each of the three articles (not including the cover page). The articles will cover various topics related to drugs and health professions field.

NOTE: Students will be expected to utilize knowledge gained throughout the term regarding how to understand and critique scholarly research, and apply that knowledge to sources used for the research paper.

Article Critiques will be turned in throughout the semester. Article Critiques must be submitted to www.turnitin.com before class, the day they are due. You will be submitting printed “Originality Reports” from www.turnitin.com with each Article Critique. Originality Reports are usually generated fairly quickly (i.e., within minutes); however, if the site is experiencing a lot of “traffic,” the report generation process can take up to a full day. A handout(s) will be available online that will further address the details of the article critiques.

An additional handout is available regarding the proper formatting for Article Critiques, simply entitled: **Article Critique Formatting** (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

Step Four: Preparation of Outline

Handout – Part IV: Research Paper Outline (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

A detailed outline is necessary before writing a paper. Preparing a detailed outline is not difficult once the research has been substantially completed. Creating an outline is a matter of organizing the discussion of your research in support of the thesis. A handout will be available online that will further address the details of this assignment.

Culminating Product: Research Paper

Handout – Research Paper Formatting (www.justice-studies.com/Winter+100W.htm)

The text (body) of the final paper must be at least eight (8) neatly typed pages, *exclusive of the title page, abstract, outline and references page*, typed in standard font (i.e., Times New Roman, Garamond, or Courier New, size 12, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

It is expected that your paper will incorporate relevant information from your chosen scholarly sources, appropriate to your chosen topic. Your paper will exemplify the development of your analytical thinking and writing skills. You will use headings for each section of your paper, so as to ensure that you include everything that is required. Check the criteria for scoring your research paper as you write your paper to be sure you cover everything.

Your complete Research Paper will include the following sections:

- I. Title page
- II. Abstract of your paper (1/2 page, maximum, single-spaced)
- III. Outline of your paper (single-spaced)
- IV. Text (body) of paper (8-10 pages, double-spaced)
- V. References page in correct APA format (double-spaced)
- VI. Turnitin.com Originality Report attached

Your paper will be graded based upon the scoring guide found on the next page.