

PSY390 | Final Paper Guidelines

To answer everyone's most pressing questions: **Your papers will vary substantially in length.** In addition, the **papers will be written partially by your group, and partially by yourself, but everyone will hand in a full and complete paper.** The outline below describes this in more detail. Your paper is due **MONDAY DECEMBER 11th**. Your final paper is to be written as if you plan to submit it for publication; this means it must be in **precise APA format**. APA format refers to the way the paper is structured, the way references and citations are formatted, and the style of writing used. Please consult the APA publication manual if you need a refresher. In addition, search for "apa format" on google, and you will find many good websites that describe APA format in a concise style and provide examples. You must **hand in a hard copy of the paper** (I do not want papers emailed to me). The papers are to be handed to me or placed in an envelope that I will hang outside my office door. You may, of course, hand in the papers early. Whitney and I will be happy to look over drafts of your paper.

Paper Outline (lengths are approximate, not absolute boundaries):

Title Page (1 page; written by group)

Include everyone's names as authors, but CIRCLE yours so I know whose paper I'm looking at.

Abstract (120 words; written by group)

Summary of the study, including both experiments.

Introduction (750 - 1250 words; written individually)

This section should provide background on your study. It should explain why your research is important, give supporting evidence for your study, and put your study into context. It should end with you providing specific hypotheses for your first study.

Method – Study 1 (length depends on your procedure; written by group)

Participants – Who was in your study: number, age, gender

Materials – What materials did you use (surveys, imagery, questionnaires, music)?

Procedure – Walk the reader step-by-step through your study.

Results – Study 1 (length depends on your analyses; written by group)

Describe how you analyzed the data, and what the results were. Don't get into the meaning of the results yet, just describe the analyses.

Brief Discussion (250-500 words; written by group)

Brief Discussions are only found in multiple-experiment papers. In this section, describe what you found in the first study. Were your hypotheses confirmed? Why or why not? What you plan to change in the next study? What are your new hypotheses?

Method – Study 2 (length depends on your procedure; written by group)

Same subsections as above.

Results – Study 2 (length depends on your analyses; written by group)

Same as above.

General Discussion (750 – 1250 words; written individually)

In the general discussion, start by discussing the results of your second study, then look at the overall picture: what did you learn from your studies? What were some limitations of your study? What would be your next steps if you were conducting more research?

References (5-15 articles; can be compiled by the group)

As a group, you can compile a list of references that are relevant to your paper. However, each individual should only list those references that are cited in the paper.

Tables and Figures (2-4 tables or figures; created by the group)

You should create some graphs or tables that illustrate your data. These should be in APA format (black and white; 2-D, not 3-D; each on its own page; clearly labeled and titled). See the APA manual or websites for additional info about creating APA format tables & figures. Also, be sure to refer to the figures when writing your results section.