Psych 388

**Research question: What Psychological Treatments are Effective for Depression?**

**RESEARCH PAPER**

The research paper should comprise three major sections: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. You may find it helpful to begin with an outline of the parts of your paper. The outline should illustrate how your arguments follow logically from the introductory statement of the topic into the body of the paper and through to the conclusion. It should also highlight any future research needs or practical applications you identified.

**Format**

In accordance with [APA style](https://psych.athabascau.ca/open/apa6/), your paper should be double-spaced and single-sided, using Times New Roman 12-point font. The body of the text for your paper should be approximately 10 to 12 pages in length (2800 to 3500 words), excluding title page and references.

A well-prepared paper will consist of three major parts: an introduction, the body of the report and a conclusion. It will start with a title page and end with a reference list. The paper is to be written in APA style

**NOTE:** APA states that citing a page number for a paraphrase is optional. For purposes of this assignment, page or paragraph citations are **required** for paraphrased information.

You are expected to critically analyze and synthesize the research to demonstrate a thorough investigation of the target issue. Ensure your paper includes a balanced perspective of the research (e.g., considering both the strengths and limitations), rather than a one-sided argument. Further, it is critical to integrate the research to formulate scholarly conclusions based on your analysis. It is expected that a minimum of 12 primary sources are used for this paper. Minimize (or avoid all together) the use of direct quotes unless necessary.

# Marking Guidelines for the Research Paper

RESEARCH PAPER

| **Section** | **Description** |  | **Marks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction | Concise statement of the purpose, structure, and rationale for the paper. (Why are you writing about this specialty? What do you want to learn? Why is this important? What are the implications of this topic? ) | 9–10 | **/10** |
| A wordy statement of the rationale, purpose, and structure: includes information either unnecessary or better placed later in the paper. | 7–8 |
| A wordy rationale or background statement (perhaps more suited to a literary essay), which includes only one or two statements related to the purpose, rationale, or the structure, but not all three. | 5–6 |
| A wordy rationale or background statement that does not describe the purpose, rationale, or structure. | 3–4 |
| Poorly written introduction that does not discuss the purpose, rationale or structure. | 1–2 |
| No introduction. | 0 |
| Body: Review of Literature[1] | 10 or more relevant and current sources are used to present a balanced perspective and are well discussed in-depth in an integrated [vs linear] presentation. | 26–35 | **/35** |
| 8 to 10 relevant, relatively current sources presenting one view are well discussed one-by-one in reasonable depth. | 16–25 |
| 5 to 8 sources presenting one view are discussed one-by-one in reasonable depth. Too many direct quotes. | 11–15 |
| 3 to 5 sources presenting one view are discussed one-by-one.  Too many direct quotes. | 6–10 |
| 3 or fewer sources; confused discussion. Too many direct quotes. Lack of depth. | 1–5 |
| No discussion of relevant sources. | 0 |
| Body: Critical Thinking | Excellent, integrated discussion [compare and contrast] of the strengths and limitations of the specialty based on the sources reviewed and one’s own analysis as it relates to the literature. | 17–20 | **/20** |
| Well-integrated discussion [compare and contrast] of strengths and limitations of the specialty based on either the literature or one’s own analysis, but not both. | 12–16 |
| Confused or superficial discussion of strengths and limitations based on the literature or one’s own analysis. | 6–11 |
| Superficial discussion of strengths or limitations, but not both. | 1–5 |
| No discussion of strengths and limitations. | 0 |
| Conclusion(s) | Clear, logical, and concise summary of the structure or points covered in your paper. Discussion of future research, if applicable. | 9–10 | **/10** |
| Clear, logical summary of the structure or points covered in your paper. No discussion of future research. | 6–8 |
| Unclear or illogical summary **or** points covered in your paper. | 1–5 |
| No conclusion. | 0 |
| Writing Skills | Excellent organization, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A well-organized report with will use appropriate headings and clear, logical transitions to shift from one section to the next. No paraphrase [patch writing] and direct quote errors. | 11–15 | **/15** |
| Generally well written (logical, clear, but may not have headings), with a few minor errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Minor plagiarism issues, and/or paraphrase [patch writing] and direct quote errors. | 7–10 |
| Logical and clear, but with many errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation and/or sentence structure. Minor but consistent plagiarism issues. Paraphrase [patch writing] and/or direct quote errors. Interpretation errors. | 5–6 |
| Some confusion or lack of clarity in organization and writing. Many errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence structure. Minor but consistent plagiarism issues. Paraphrase [patch writing] and/or direct quote errors. Interpretation errors. | 3–4 |
| Generally confusing and illogical. Major plagiarism issues. Paraphrase [patch writing] and/or direct quote errors. Interpretation errors. | 1–2 |
| Generally confusing, illogical, and unclear. Major plagiarism issues. Paraphrase [patch writing] and/or direct quote errors. Interpretation errors. | 0 |
| APA Style | Consistent use of [APA style](https://psych.athabascau.ca/open/apa6/) (6th ed.) in the title page, body of the paper, citations, and reference list; the title page includes a title appropriate for a scientific paper, student name and ID number, course, and tutor. | 9–10 | **/10** |
| Consistent use of an out-of-date APA style in all four elements; title page includes appropriate title, student name and ID number, course, and tutor. | 7–8 |
| Consistent use of APA style in three elements or inconsistent use in four elements; title page may be incomplete. | 5–6 |
| Use of APA style in two elements; title page may be incomplete. | 3–4 |
| Use of a style other than APA. | 1–2 |
| No citations or reference list; no title page. | 0 |
| Total | | | **/100** |

APA Style – when using direct quotes or paraphrasing, the page number (or paragraph number, as in the case of some html pages where page numbers are not provided) must be attributed within the citation, according to APA 6th edition.

#### Footnote

[1] Body: Review of Literature - Sources for the research assignment must be primary research-based articles. These must be accessed from established journals; that is, those journals found in the Athabasca University Library and other online digital databases, as well as print-based databases found in established college or university libraries. Book reviews, journal article abstracts, and textbooks are not acceptable sources for this assignment. In addition, general articles accessed from the Web (e.g., articles that are of a general nature or that are written for public education, or Wikipedia) are not acceptable. They are not considered valid and reliable for use in a research paper.