

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY PAPER FORMATTING

1. For every numbered term/concept you write about in your paper, there must be an explanation of the term/concept **in your own words**. Do not use the words in the book or the terminology from the classroom PowerPoint presentation. There must also be a personal example relating the term/concept to a situation in your life. It can be a current situation or something that happened in the past. You may not use personal examples which are basically the same as the ones used by the instructor or other students in class or examples from the book.
2. If there are multiple terms within a numbered concept, be sure to explain and identify each of them in your example, being VERY SPECIFIC:

For example, from the chapter on "the self" - The term/concept is as follows:

Differentiate between personality variables (state and trait), individual difference variables and situational variables in behavior. (five different terms to address in your answer)

Examples of explanations:

Personality variables are part of an individual's personal characteristics. (#1) They can be *state*, which means they are temporary or transient (#2), or *trait*, which means they are more permanent across time and situations (#3). These variables can influence behavior.

Individual difference variables are variables that differ among people. This can include personality variables but also other aspects of a person which can vary such as intelligence, height, creativity, etc. These variables can influence behavior. (#4)

Situational variables are variables relating to a specific situation which can influence behavior. (#5)

Examples of personalization of each of the terms:

I met this person I really liked at a bar one night (situational variable). I was acting really shy, which is not normal for me (personality variable, state). I am generally a very outgoing, confident person (personality variable, trait). As I got to know the person better, I became more comfortable acting more like myself (situational variable). I learned that both of us are smart and well educated (individual difference variable). I felt optimistic (personality variable) about meeting this person in the future.

3. Be sure to write about the assigned/required number of terms/concepts for each paper (usually three, assigned by chapter by the instructor). As noted above, for each numbered term/concept from the study guide, you will need to address all parts of it. For example, if you picked the "ABC's" of social psychology as your term/concept from the study guide on the "Introduction" chapter, you must relate specific content in your example, VERY SPECIFICALLY, to each of the "ABC's", affect, behavior and cognition.

In your own words, explain the ABC's. Then write how this term/concept relates to you.

The ABCs are what social psychologists study in terms of human behavior, emotion is the "A", behaviors are the "B" and thoughts or cognitions are the "C".

On Sunday my dog chewed up my good pair of sandals. I was very angry with her (**affect = A**). I thought she was too old to chew shoes anymore (**cognition = C**), so I had left the sandals on the patio outside the back door (**behavior = B**). I yelled at her and then ignored her for the rest of the day (**behavior = B**).

In this paragraph, three terms have been used and examples of each given, but this is only a sufficient response for one of the numbered terms/concepts from the study guide as outlined by the instructor. You would still need two more if you were instructed to write about three terms/concepts.

4. Without both the explanation of the term/concept and the personal example, you will not get **any** points for that term/concept.

5. Be sure to include your Learning Assessment. Label it and underline it:

Learning Assessment:

This should be a thoughtful reflection of the learning process via the writing of this paper. I am not concerned with what you specifically learned, rather with your thoughts of the process of writing the paper, thinking about how the term/concept related to you and coming up with examples that best exemplified your understanding of the term/concept.

Without the learning assessment, you automatically get a ZERO on your paper.

Requirements:

- Typed, 1" margins, 12 pt font, double spaced and STAPLED
- Posting number, date and chapter in the upper left hand corner of the first page
- The chosen term/concept must be typed then your response made on your paper
- Learning assessment at the end of the paper, related to the content of the chapter for the week, labeled and underlined.
- It is due at 1:00 on the assigned Wednesday. If you are late to class, your paper will NOT be accepted. It must be submitted in class the day it is due. If you are not going to be in class, you can send it via e-mail as long as it is received by your instructor by 1:00pm. (see your syllabus for instructions) It must be in word format, windows XP or earlier.

E-mail me if you have any questions at: kam.majer@gcmail.maricopa.edu