

Research Methods (PSY 3213)

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Students are required to write a Research Proposal using APA style that is worth a maximum of **150** points. They are also required to submit a completed draft for peer review; as well as review other students' work.

I. Research Proposals Must Include All of the Following:

A. Title Page & Abstract

B. Introduction - Present your logic for your proposal including what has been found in past research studies. (3-5 pages).

1. Literature review: This should include at least **10 journal sources**, which must be dated between **2000 and 2012**. At least **FIVE** of these sources must be **original empirical studies** (primary sources). This literature review must include a review of the theoretical perspective/s that you will be basing your hypotheses on as well as a review of relevant research. Make sure to explain each theory and study and clearly state how each applies to your research question/s.
 - i. Review articles (e.g., *Psychological Bulletin* and *Psychology Review*) and textbooks are a good place to begin your literature search for this section. You can cite review articles (e.g., see Black and Jones, 2010, for review), but be sure to use primary research sources when discussing individual empirical studies (primary sources). When this is not possible you must use the following format: *In Seidenberg and McClelland's (1957) study (as cited in Black & Jones, 2010)...*
 - ii. Wikipedia and other non-authoritative internet or popular news sources (e.g., *Time Magazine*, *Psychology Today*) are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**; do not include such sources in the paper.
2. Rationale for why you are conducting the experiment. Make sure to indicate why you believe your proposed research project is important to the field of psychology. What questions will it address and attempt to answer? Why is this important?
3. Hypotheses. Must be falsifiable. That is, they can be shown to be false by contradictory evidence.
4. Graph or Figure illustrating the hypothesis/hypotheses.
5. Organization of the introduction. Usually the introduction begins with a brief paragraph that introduces the research question/problem and why it is important to study. Then the question/problem is described in more detail using past research and theory to make various points. In the final paragraphs, the author restates the problem and briefly describes how he/she plans to explore the problem (listing independent and dependent variables). The author then lists the hypotheses that he/she will be testing.

- C. **Method** - Present a detailed plan of how you propose to carry out your study. Include a description of your participants, materials and apparatus, design of the study, and procedure. Be sure you include appropriate control groups in your design. (2-5 pages)
1. Participants. Your proposed participant (or subject) sample.
 - a. Sample Size
 - b. Demographics (age, gender, race, and other individual difference variables important to your study).
 - c. How you will assign your participants to groups (random assignment, naturally occurring groups).
 2. Study design. Explain why you chose this particular design. What are the benefits and the limitations of the design you chose?
 3. Measures/techniques/apparatus you will be using. If you are using a measure that has been validated cite the author and describe the measure. Otherwise operationally define all of your measures (dependent variables) and this can include adding them in an abstract.
 4. Procedure. Step by step description of where and how the experiment will be conducted so it can be replicated; include description of stimulus observed; state exactly what data will be recorded. Make sure to include the informed consent and debriefing processes.
 5. Statistics. Describe the statistics you will use to test each of your hypotheses (descriptive and inferential). You may need different statistics for different hypotheses. You can use a figure or graph to illustrate your proposed results, but this is not necessary.
- D. **Reference Page** – All sources cited in your proposal must appear on your reference page. See APA Publication Manual (6th ed.) beginning on p. 198 for the formatting guide.

II. Formatting and Other Paper Requirements:

- A. Research Proposals must be written in the format endorsed in the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.). See the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.) for specific details on organization and writing style as well as formatting for the title page, abstract, page numbering, headings, citations, reference pages, organization, and citing statistics in text. The manuscript submission checklist (p. 241) can be very helpful and so can the sample paper (p. 41).
- B. Paper Length. **Five to ten pages** (plus title page, abstract, graph/figure, and reference list).
- C. College level writing is expected (clarity, organization, and flow of paper are extremely important). Everyone will be given a referral to the **USF Writing Resource Center**: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/CAS/WritingCtr.php>
- D. Write in future tense. You are proposing a study.
- E. Spacing and Font. The entire paper must be **double-space** and use **12 point font**.
- F. Direct Quotes. These should be kept to a minimum (maximum of 2). Overuse or unnecessary use of direct quoting will result in a reduction of points. Instead, paraphrase and give credit to source with a citation.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DRAFT & PEER REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Approximately a week and a half prior to the due date of your final research proposal (**November 21st**) you will be handing in a completed draft of your research proposal to Dr. Ruva and you will be providing a second copy to two of your peers to review during lab. That is, you are to bring **THREE copies** of your paper to the class meeting in which we are conducting the **Peer Reviews**. Each student will be responsible for reviewing two other students' papers using the same grading criteria form that Dr. Ruva will use to grade your final research proposals. You will be required to provide detailed comments both on the grading criteria sheet and on the actual paper. This will be **done in class** and you will **discuss your review with the student** whose paper you reviewed. You will then **give this student your review** so that he/she can edit his/her final paper. The student whose paper you review will hand in your review (both the grading criteria sheet and the paper draft) with his/her final research proposal. Note, in order to receive any points for this task you must bring in a completed Research Proposal Paper on the date specified on the Tentative Schedule below. Dr. Ruva alone will determine whether your draft qualifies as a **completed research paper**. This task is for **your benefit**. Therefore, be sure to take advantage of it. This task counts as one of your **Lab Activities**.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL & RESEARCH PROPOSAL DRAFTS

Research Proposal Draft & Peer Review Dates: Your Research Proposal Draft is due on **November 27th** at the beginning of class. During this class period you will review two other students' research proposals and earn a maximum of **50 points** for completion of all of these tasks: 20 pts for your completed proposal draft and 15 pts for each peer review you complete.

Final Research Proposal Submission Instructions and Due Date: Your final Research Proposal is due on **December 4th** at the beginning of class (maximum of **150 points**).

- You will need to provide me with the following on or before class start on **12-4-12**:
 - **ONE HARD COPY** of this proposal.
 - Submit this proposal using **SAFE ASSIGN IN BLACKBOARD**.
 - Completed Peer Reviewed Papers and Grading Criteria Sheets.
 - **Academic Honest Form**: Signed, dated, and attached to final paper.
 - **NOTE: IF ANY OF THESE ITEMS ARE MISSING THE PAPER WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE!**
- Both formats of your paper submission (hard copy and Blackboard) must be completed by the due date or you will incur a **LATE PAPER POINT REDUCTION** which is **10% per day** late (e.g., if your paper is two days late and it would have received a score of 140 points if turned in on time you would receive 113 points).
- Papers will **NOT BE ACCEPTED** via campus mailbox, email, slipped under office door, etc. If your paper is going to be late you need to contact me to arrange how you will get the hard copy of the paper to me. The date I receive your paper in my hands is the date it will be recorded as completed.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENTS

Academic Honesty. Academic honesty is an essential component of the academic process. Both students and faculty are expected to “live up to the highest ethical standards with respect to the origin of ideas, the accuracy of data, and like matters” (Bryant, 2002).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the catalog, [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) or [USFSM Graduate Catalog](#) and the [USF Student Code of Conduct](#). Academic dishonesty will result in an "FF" for the course and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF SM.

Per the USF SM Undergraduate Catalog One Form of Academic Dishonesty is Plagiarism

1. **PLAGIARISM**, which is defined as “intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student’s original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be properly acknowledged by parenthetical citation in the text ... When material from another source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one’s own words, that source must be acknowledged in a footnote or endnote, or by parenthetical citation in the text. Information gained in reading or research that is not common professional knowledge must be acknowledged in a parenthetical citation in the text or in a footnote or endnote.” (p. 55)

Plagiarism Detection (Safe Assign): The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. **Any plagiarism in this course will result in an “FF” for the class and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF SM.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY FORM

Staple this half of the page to the First Draft of your Research Proposal when you turn it in.

RESEARCH METHODS

Name (Please Print): _____

Class (day and time): Tuesday & Thursday, 3:00 pm –4:50 pm

Instructor's name: Christine L. Ruva, Ph.D.

By signing this line, I am certifying that I was academically honest in preparing this paper:

Name _____ Date _____

ACADEMIC HONESTY FORM

Staple this half of the page to your Final Draft of your Research Proposal when you turn it in.

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