

## Writing Assignment 2 Psychology in the Real World

This project will give you the opportunity to see how psychology is all around us. You will be asked to locate and read two articles: 1) an article from the popular press describing a current issue that involves a psychological concept covered in the course and 2) a research study on that same topic. You will then be asked to consider how the results of the research study relate to the current issue that you identified. This assignment will allow you to see how psychological research can be applied to real world problems. A 4 - 5 page write-up of this assignment is due at the end of the semester.

Here are the steps:

1. Find a recent article describing a real world issue/current event that involves at least psychological concept, topic, or theory covered in the course. The article **MUST** come from one of the following sources: Orange County Register, LA Times, Time, or Newsweek. This should be relatively easy since most real world issues/current events involve a number of psychological concepts.  
*Examples of real world issues/current events:* homosexual marriage, the obesity epidemic, terrorism, prisoner abuse, treatments for depression, parenting techniques, reactions to natural disasters, etc.
2. Read the article and identify one psychological concept that is involved in the real world issue/current event.  
*Examples of psychological concepts:* biological drives, fear, obedience, culture, nature-nurture, attachment, stress and coping, etc.
3. Find a recent empirical research article from one of the psychology journals suggested below that examines the same psychological concept (the article must be recent, 2000-present). For this part, you must select an article that describes a research study (it will have a “Method” section and “Results” section) **NOT** a *Psychology Today* article or any other review articles.
4. Read the research study and think about how the results may relate to the current issue.
5. Write a 4-5 page paper that addresses the following points:
  - Briefly summarize the real world issue/current event that is described in the newspaper or magazine article. (2 points)
  - Clearly describe the psychological concept, topic, or theory that is involved in the real world issue/current event. Make sure to incorporate plenty of terms from your textbook to demonstrate that you understand it. (4 points)
  - Summarize the recent research article on that psychological topic. Describe what the study was investigating (what was the research question?), how they performed the research (participants, procedures, surveys, materials, etc.), and what they found (what were the results?). (6 points)
  - Describe how the results of the study may relate to the real world issue/current event. (For example, what do the results of the study say about how the issue

should be handled in the future? Do the results of the study suggest how the issue can be prevented or promoted in the future? According to the results of the study, should there be any changes in programs, policies, laws, or regulations to prevent or promote the issue? How should people think, feel, or act to prevent or promote the issue in the future?) (5 points)

- Grammar, spelling, organization (1.5 points)
- Give the full reference of the research article (author, year, title, journal name, volume, pages) using APA style. (.5 point)

Also,

- Submit a copy of the first page of the popular press article describing the current issue. (.5 point)
- Submit a copy of the first page of the research article (.5 point)