

Guidelines for Moderation Day (November 16th, 2018)

Arrive at Old Henderson by 8:55am. You may have with you any general supplies (pens, pencils, highlighters) and any course materials that you find familiar and reassuring. You may bring your own laptop if you prefer, though you must still work in one of three places: the Old Henderson Computer Lab (either Mac or PC side), or the Psychology lounge in the Preston entryway. The articles will be distributed promptly at 9 am.

Your goal for the day is to write two papers, together totaling approximately 10 pages that summarizes and analytically evaluates the article you have been assigned:

(1) The first paper will be a concise and informative summary of the rationale, hypotheses, methods, and conclusions of the article; **this first paper may not exceed three pages**. Your summary must be in your own words and should include enough detail that someone who has not read your article will be able to accurately understand the content.

(2) The second paper will focus on analysis of your assigned article. Your analysis of the article should provide constructive, analytic content regarding the data, methods, and conclusions of the researchers. This should make up a substantial portion of your paper. It need not be “critical” in the sense of being negative, but you should state whether, for example, the design of an experiment adequately tests the researchers’ hypotheses (i.e., How does the experimental design, the stimulus set, or the task that the participants performed permit an adequate test of the hypothesis?). Your evaluation might also address the relationship between the actual experimental results and the implications of the results as described by the researchers. You may thoughtfully and creatively link the content of the article to other coursework, both inside and outside psychology, if relevant. Lastly, you may comment on future research or propose questions that may be addressed in subsequent studies. **This second paper may not exceed seven pages.**

A faculty member will be available in their office at times throughout the day to provide guidance. There are limits to the amount of help we can provide. For example, we will not explain statistical methods in detail, but we will direct you to resources so that you will be able to comment on the experimental results in a manner that reflects your level of understanding. **You may not consult any individuals about your assigned article or your written response with the exception of faculty members in Psychology.**

You may consult internet resources during moderation, including statistics help pages on line, and you must cite any internet sources you use. However, consulting websites that are not academic sites or are not peer reviewed may consume your valuable time and degrade the quality and depth of your own comments. In general, therefore, it is best to use internet resources minimally and focus strictly on reading closely the study that you have been assigned. There are some resources online that you may want to consult, such as the Oxford English Dictionary (through Stevenson Library), PsycInfo, and the American Psychological Association website regarding APA formatting guidelines (<http://www.apastyle.org>). If you use these resources, you

do not need to cite them within your list of references. (Again, don't go overboard. Rely for the most part on your own analysis. It is most likely that your analysis will not need to include a list of references at all, just a citation on your cover sheet citing the single article that you have been assigned.)

You can of course leave your room to take breaks or eat, but all of your work must be done in Old Henderson/Preston. Time spent outside of your room will not extend the amount of time you have remaining.

Remember to save your work OFTEN and email a copy of your writing to yourself at least every hour.

Proofread your work carefully. Format the paper according to the following standards: 1.5 inch left margin and 1 inch top, bottom and right margins; double spaced, Times New Roman font (12pt). **Include a cover sheet with the full APA-style reference of your assigned article, your name, and the date. This cover sheet will be included with your first paper (but will not count for the three-page limit) – most people will therefore upload a 4 page file as their first paper).**

You must finish and upload your final, proofread moderation papers no later than 9 pm. You will upload them separately to the current Research Methods Spring 2018 Moodle site – note the two separate upload links. **Upload your papers as pdf. documents named in the following format: [yourlastname].pdf.** Be sure to confirm that the correct version of your paper is uploaded. If you finish before 9 pm, you may leave after you have submitted your work.

In addition:

Remember to bring your moderation day papers, your source article, and your “looking back” / “looking ahead” short papers to your moderation board. It is important that you REVIEW all of these papers and are ready to discuss them during your moderation board meeting.