

Observational Study & Report Guide: (80 pts)

As a class the students will design a study that employs observational methodology (See Cosby Chapter 7). Your grade on this project will consist of the following 3 components:

I. Introduction with 4 primary references (15 pts): Due 10/6 - Dr. Aspelmeier's office before 2:00 pm. Using the How to Write and Introduction in APA Format Without Developing an Overwhelming urge to Kill, turn in a Title Page and a four to five paragraph introduction that: 1) clearly states the research question and relevant background information that sets up the research question; 2) integrates the general findings of the 4 articles presented in the summaries (be sure to include citations); 3) critically evaluates the strengths and limitations of the relevant studies; 4) clearly states the rationale (what makes the present study important), how the independent and dependent variables will be operationalized, and the hypotheses of the study. The introduction should be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins. This paper must conform to the style described in the fifth edition of The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Mechanics and grammar are as important as content. Finally, turn in a reference list (in APA format) of all the articles you have obtained.

II. Data Collection (15 pts) : Due 10/4 (no later than 5:00 pm)

Following the procedures outlined in the Observational Study Data Collection Guide (forthcoming), each student will observe participants, record the data, enter the data into an SPSS data file and submit copies of the original data sheets (you keep the originals), and e-mail the file as an attachment to drfaulkne@radford.edu. Also, be sure you have a copy of the file saved on your H: drive.

III. Final Report (50 pts): Due 10/20

Each student will turn in a thoroughly proof-read and revised version of the paper. This paper should be typed, **5-6 pages** (excluding the grading rubric, title page, abstract, references, appendices, tables, figures), double space, with 1 inch margins and the introduction should show evidence of revisions and attempts to include of editorial suggestions made by the instructor. This paper must conform to the style described in the fourth edition of The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Mechanics and grammar are as important as content. Papers will be graded on both aspects. The paper should also show evidence of proofreading and corrections. Your paper should include the following things in this order:

1. Survey Study Final Report Grading Rubric
2. Title Page
3. Abstract
4. Revised Introduction
5. Method
6. Results (following the Observational Study Data Analysis Plan Guide: Forthcoming)
7. Discussion: (Summary of the study and Critique of the methodological strengths and weakness of the proposed study)
8. Conclusions: (suggestions for future directions in theory and research)
9. References: (at least 4 primary sources)
10. Appropriate appendices, tables, and figures (if necessary)
11. Attach SPSS output for all analyses
12. Attach the original, previously graded introduction (the one with the grade and editorial comments on it).

NOTE For ALL written work:

- 1) Though all students will be writing reports based on the same project, it is expected that each student's report will be unique and solely the product that student's efforts. Though you may work with other students, be sure that your paper is your own.
- 2) In the extremely unlikely event that your paper is missing or has been accidentally lost or destroyed, make sure that you have a hard copy of the paper AND a backup disk in addition to the copy that you turn in. This is your record of having completed the assignment and will be used to replace the missing copy. If you do not have a backup, it will be your responsibility to redo the paper.
- 3) With the exception of statistics homework problems, all written work **must be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins and 12 pt typeface** and must conform to the style described in the fifth edition of The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Handwritten work and other work found unacceptable due to format, grammar, or lack of proofreading will not be accepted and will be returned for revision. Revisions submitted within one week of return, will be accepted with a 10% grade reduction. Revisions submitted after the one week deadline will be awarded 0 pts.

Research in Psychology I:
Observational Study Final Report Grading Rubric

	<u>Points</u>	
	Possible	
	Earned	
1. Completeness-		
– Editorial Corrections Made:	4	_____
– Length:	4	_____
– Title Page:	1	_____
– Abstract:	2	_____
-- Introduction: Review of literature and major findings, Statement of Hypotheses and Purpose of Study	5	_____
– Methods: Participants, Materials/Apparatus, Procedures	5	_____
– Results: Descriptive Analyses, Demographic Analyses, Main Analyses, Statistics & tables	5	_____
– Discussion: Description of results in broader terms & Critique of the current study’s strengths and weaknesses.	3	_____
– Conclusions: Suggestions for future directions in theory and research	2	_____
– References: Number of primary references	4	_____
2. Quality of Research-		
– Quality of references: Prominence & Relevance	3	_____
– Present a clear research question	3	_____
– Investigate topic in a thorough and effective manner	3	_____
3. Format and style-		
– acceptable written English (APA style, appropriate grammar, no slang or colloquial expressions).	4	_____
– evidence of proof reading.	2	_____
	Total	50
	Grade % =	

Graded By: _____ date

<u>Final Grade</u>	
Introduction	(15) =
Data Collection	(15) =
<u>Final Report</u>	(50) =
TOTAL	(80) =