

Event Analysis Paper Guide

Project Overview:

Social Psychology is as much a *way* of viewing the world, as it is a specific field of psychology. The goal of this project is to further develop your social psychological “eye” and begin to see the ways that social psychological principles are constantly at work around. To this end, I would like you to pick some event [either real (e.g., historical, current event, personal experience, etc.) or fictional (e.g., from a book, movie, TV show, theater, music, etc.)] and analyze it using a social psychological perspective. That is, you must analyze the event using a specific social psychological theory or concept. You can use multiple **related** events or different aspects of a single event. Also, you can analyze the event(s) using multiple social psychological theories/concepts.

Each student will write a 4 to 5 page (not including the title page, references, or optional supporting materials), 50 point paper. Papers ***must be typed and double spaced with 1 inch margins***. They are due at the beginning of the class meeting on ***or before Fri., April. 1st***. Students should make an extra copy of the paper to keep. Papers may be submitted in a manilla folder or envelope or stapled together. **Papers Must include the Grading Rubric, placed before the title page).**

Late papers will be accepted, but marked down two letter grades (10 points), on April 4th. Papers turned in after the late date will not be accepted and 0 points will be given for the assignment.

Specifically, you will need to:

- a. Place only your student ID number on the paper’s title page, no names please.
- b. Describe the event providing enough details to support your analysis. If appropriate, you could include the newspaper or magazine article that you are analyzing, but including the article does not preclude describing the event in the body of the paper, nor do these materials count as part of the paper’s length.
- c. Analyze the event using at least one theory/research topic discussed in this course. Your paper should focus on this analysis. **You must completely define all concepts or theories being applied.** However, you should not spend the bulk of the paper summarizing the theory you are using. The goal of this exercise is not to test your knowledge of the theories per se, but to see if you can creatively and appropriately apply those theories to the real world and vice versa.
- d. The paper should be no more than **five** pages (not including the title page, references, or any optional supporting materials). Again, all written work ***must be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins and 12 pt typeface***. 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.

General Criteria for evaluation of paper (see accompanying rubric for details):

- a. Completing all aspects of the assigned project.
- b. The plausibility and insightfulness of your analysis. First, your analysis should be plausible in the sense of being both consistent with the theories/research it is derived from and consistent with the facts of the event that you choose. Second, try to pick a situation to analyze that has interesting, non-obvious aspects to it such that your analysis adds something to our understanding of the event. For example, do not simply pick an obvious act of altruism (helping behavior) and then describe all the theories and research findings about altruism. Try and pick an event that truly illustrates some of the things we talked about.
- c. Format and style- acceptable written English; no slang or colloquial expressions; evidence of proof reading, and corrections made.

Social Psychology: Event Analysis Grading Rubric/Book Approval Form
 (To be included with submission of review)

Student #: _____

		<u>Points</u>	
		Possible	Earned
1. Completeness-			
– Length: (4-5 pages)		8	_____
– Rubric Included:		2	_____
– Summary of Event:		8	_____
2. Analysis-			
– Definition of Concept(s)/Theory(ies)		8	_____
– Clearly states how the Concept Explains the Event		8	_____
– Plausibility of application of Concept/Theory to event		4	_____
– Insight: Does the analysis add to our understanding of the event.		4	_____
– Non-Obvious nature of analysis		4	_____
5. Format and style-			
-- acceptable written English (APA style, appropriate grammar, no slang or colloquial expressions).		2	_____
-- evidence of proof reading (5 or fewer typos).		2	_____

Total 50

Grade % =

 Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier

 Date