

PSY 710 RESEARCH PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to familiarize students with the use of PSYCHINFO to find psychological research relevant to a topic of interest to you and to practice and develop skills in interpreting experimental evidence.

Find four research articles on a topic of your choice using PSYCHINFO. Your topic should be specific enough to be the topic of a good paper. It should be relevant to the course and use human subjects. **At least two of these articles must be true experiments or quasiexperiments**, using twenty or more subjects assigned to groups, with the **manipulation** of an independent variable. Notice some writers will call a study an experiment when it is not really an experiment.

The others may be correlational or research with small numbers. Do not use simple descriptive surveys, single subject designs, case studies, or qualitative analyses. The articles must be complete reports of research in research journals, rather than review articles or summaries of research. Do not attempt to complete this project without finding the article itself. Using the abstract alone is not adequate and will result in a failing grade.

When you have found an article you will use, you can either copy and paste the table of information (with abstracts) from PSYCHINFO or email the search results (abstract, etc) for the chosen articles to yourself and copy and paste these into your report.

Remember all emails must have your course, PSY710, in the subject header. Email a report entitled with your lastname_firstname.doc to ardenmiller@missouristate.edu in Microsoft Word (which is on all campus computers) or equivalent (e.g., the free version on openoffice.org) from your Missouri state account that is organized with the following underlined headings and includes:

1. The search terms that you used.
2. Experiment 1
 - a. reference in APA style

Author's last name, initials [lastname, initials, & lastname,initials (year) Title of article, Title of Journal, Volume number, 1stpage_ lastpage.

For example;

Miller, A. T. & Dingleberry, O. K. (1986) Psychotic behaviors of the North American psychology instructor, *Journal of Wild and Crazy Ideas*, 15, 136-145.

- b. The results from your PSYCHINFO search.

- c. State the **hypothesis**, identify **independent variables** (or quasi_independent) and their **operational definition** and **dependent variables** and their the **operational definition**. Note the level of **statistical significance** for the finding based upon the independent variable. In listing variables, be very specific. Use headings that allow me to quickly find where you have identified the variables. Each highlighted term in this paragraph should constitute a heading. If an article has multiple experiments, either do the first one or the one you find most interesting.

3. Experiment 2 (same information as 1)
4. Study 3

- a. Specify type of study; experimental, correlational, cross-sectional, longitudinal, etc.
- b. reference in APA style
- c. The results from your PSYCHINFO search.

5. Study 4, same as study 3

6. Write a brief summary (2-3 pages total) of what you have found out about your topic from each article; possibly a paragraph or two from each article that describes and relates the research.

It is essential that these two studies be experimental (or at least quasiexperimental). Confusion on this point will result in a grade no better than a D.

7. Conclude with the following statement:

I have read the full length copy of each of the articles listed in the references and I understand I may be required to turn in the full length copy in order to verify aspects of this assignment.

Your submission will be considered the equivalent of your signature.

A sample library research project and scoring criteria appear on the web page.