

PSY 505 Written Exercise Guidelines and Rubric

Guidelines:

For this assignment, you are expected to produce a well written, reasoned, logical, and most importantly, thoroughly analyzed response befitting a graduate student. Papers should be 1,200 words (excluding title and reference pages).

Ensure that the paper conforms to APA standards of writing (including a title page, abstract, discussion, reference page, in-text citations, and appropriate formatting). This is **not** an opinion piece. Theories are to be supported with facts, evidence, and scholarly research. Each student's goal is to find new and innovative ideas in policing that are not the "same old, same old."

The paper should be of quality and format that is sufficient to merit publication in a professional journal. Toward that end, you will use a **minimum of three** peer reviewed scholarly journal articles, professional journals, or books from the Saint Leo University Library to craft the paper. You may use information gathered from a reputable website as one of the sources. A reputable website is one **maintained by trustworthy and renowned organizations or individuals**. For example, for a conservative viewpoint on a topic, The Heritage Foundation site would be valid. Conversely, a liberal perspective may come from The Cato Institute.

Newspaper, magazine, opinion, or op-ed pieces may be used as secondary sources; **in addition to, not in place of**, the three primary source minimum.

Non-reputable articles from general websites like Wikipedia **do not** constitute peer reviewed articles, professional journals, or texts. Anyone can post any article on Wikipedia as one can create a website about anything. This makes the information very unreliable for academic research. As a result, sources used from these types of sites **will not be accepted**.

While writing the paper, exemplify the university core value of excellence as defined:

Excellence: Saint Leo University is an educational enterprise. All of us, individually and collectively, work hard to ensure that our students develop the character, learn the skills, and assimilate the knowledge essential to become morally responsible leaders. The success of our University depends upon a conscientious commitment to our mission, vision, and goals.

The paper will be submitted directly to the appropriate module's assignment Dropbox. (Dropbox baskets are linked to Turnitin.) Each student will also copy and paste his/her paper into a new discussion thread on the appropriate Written Exercise Discussion Board as opposed to attaching the document to the message. This will make examining the paper easier for your classmates. It is possible that formatting may change when pasting your paper; however, papers will not be graded from within this forum.

During each module, you will also critically examine **at least three** colleagues' papers and review their theories and merits. Reasoned examination **and critical analysis** are expected on papers in a manner that is professional, academic, courteous, well supported, and well thought out. Commentary responses should be **at least 100 words**.

The goal is to strengthen and improve the arguments and theories of colleagues. Each student should ask him/herself "what is being written, how can it be improved, are there holes in the research and if so, how can they be filled." Commentary on papers should move the piece to which the student is responding forward, strengthen deficiencies in theory, or pose pointed rhetorical questions about a proposal. This means that even if a student agrees with the premise or theory, (s)he should add to, or build upon it. Writing to a colleague "I agree with what you wrote" and then proceeding to quote word-for-word what was written does not show critical analysis or move the paper forward.

Rubric (65 total points per module):

Ratings:

Exceptional (A- to A)	Performance is outstanding, significantly above the usual expectations.
Proficient (B to B+)	Skills and standards are at the level of expectation of a graduate student.
Basic (C to B-)	Skills and standards are at the minimal acceptable graduate level but improvements are needed.
Novice (F)	Performance is not of a graduate level; the skills or standards are not sufficiently demonstrated at this time.
0	Assignment not submitted.

Written Exercise Paper/Initial Post (50 total points per module):

CRITERIA	RATINGS				
	0	Novice 1-34	Basic 35-41	Proficient 42-44	Exceptional 45-50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically examines the issues synthesizing the material while integrating the class text, lectures, outside sources, scholarly journals, and/or publications • Posits new ideas, "outside the box" theories, as well as assessing the value of theories in real world situations by predicting or drawing conclusions based on reasoned arguments • Research adds to the Criminal Justice knowledge pool as opposed to simply re-stating the same ideas and theories 	Paper not submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper is poorly written with little or no research • No graduate level theories or ideas are presented • Rehash of familiar ideas with no new thoughts presented • No or few sources used and/or referenced • High percentage of copied and pasted work • No to poor APA formatting • Numerous spelling and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper shows basic research • Provides very few unique ideas or theories • Sources are not sufficient for a graduate research paper or do not connect to the topic • Formatting does not always comply with APA standards • Some spelling and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper provides good theories and ideas which draw good conclusions and posit unique theories • Ideas and theories presented are reasonable in real world situations and have clearly been thought through • Research adds to the Criminal Justice knowledge pool • Sources are good and sufficient for the research presented • APA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-researched paper with unique theories and ideas that draw unique conclusions, predict outcomes, and present reasonable "outside the box" thinking • References are specific to theories and in-text citations point reader directly to supporting documents • Research adds to the Criminal Justice knowledge pool. • APA formatting, spelling, and grammar are

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research is examined critically, researched scholarly and implemented realistically • 1,200 words and proper APA format is used throughout 				<p>formatting is solid with complete and correct in-text cites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling and grammar are correct • Paper is well edited. 	<p>completely correct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper is well-edited incorporating only those ideas, comments, and research that connect to the initial hypothesis
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Total: ___/50

Comments:

Written Exercise Responses to Classmates (15 points per module):

CRITERIA	RATINGS				
	0	Novice 1-10	Basic 11-12	Proficient 13	Exceptional 14-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively comments on a paper by fully understanding and critically examining the thoughts and theories of the colleague s/he is reviewing Proposes new ideas and theories when needed, or adds to and strengthens, the theories with which s/he agrees In either case student bolsters and improves the research to which s/he is responding and adds to the knowledge pool Supports all views with valid scholarly research Posts comments to at least three classmates on three separate days 	Responses not submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses provide little in the way of new knowledge Review is primary composed of quoting from the paper to which s/he is responding Peer review reads like an informal casual response Does little to add to research No references or support for views Does not produce the required number of posts Spelling and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses show a basic grasp of the paper to which student is responding Responses may be informal and similar in tone to a casual non-academic response Sometimes adds or strengthens the research References and citations are not sufficient or nonexistent May not have produced the required number of posts Some spelling and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses add to, or strengthens the research paper Responses address the research directly and adds to the pool of knowledge presented in the paper Review is adequately supported with references and citations Little to no spelling or grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-reviewed responses and research that adds to the paper, increases the validity of the document, and moves the research forward Specifically targets problematic areas and address the issue with well-constructed comments Support for views documented with references and citations No spelling or grammatical errors of consequence

Total: ____/15

Comments: