

Inquiry Question

Independent research allows each Psychology student the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest and delve into greater detail on their chosen topic. What do you want to investigate further?

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



General Instructions

Independent research allows each Psychology student the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest and delve into greater detail on the chosen topic than we would have time to cover as an entire class. Your paper is to be submitted electronically, should be 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced with a font size of 12, not counting the cover page, and references page. Your research should include a minimum of 5 references, with at least 2 references coming from either books or professional journal articles.

Materials you'll need:

- Internet

Project submission:

Submit the completed project in electronic format.

Instructions

Your research paper is to be prepared in APA format, and as such should include:

1. 1" margins all around
2. Title page centered horizontally and vertically
3. References within the document in APA format (NOT footnotes, but author and year in parenthesis).

APA Format for References (fictitious samples, to show you the format):

- For a professional journal article (as it would appear in the bibliography - alphabetically by author last name):
Freud, S. (1933). The interpretation of dreams. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 5(2), 144-148.
- For a book: Erikson, E. (1958). *Psychological and social development through the lifespan*. (pp. 104-155). New York, NY: Harcourt Brace.

- In-paper citations (using these two examples).
Paraphrase the information, ending with the citation: "For many adults, unresolved issues from childhood may show up in the latent content of their dreams, when interpreted from a psychoanalytic point of view (Freud, 1933). In other cases, the difficulties may have more to do with their age and stage of development. In later adulthood, conflicts may arise from career difficulties, and the feeling that it has become too late to make major life changes (Erikson, 1958)."

4. References page after the body of the report (not numbered, but alphabetical by author's last name).

Essay Criteria

Your paper should address the following:

1. Give a brief background of the subject or problem.
2. Include a personal discussion of your thoughts, bias, and feelings towards the subject or problem prior to the research you conducted.
3. What types of research methods have been used to study this topic/problem?
4. What is the significance of this topic/problem? Why is it important for people to understand? What areas of mental or physical health may it have an impact on?
5. What is already known about this topic/problem?
6. What were the limitations that affected your efforts to research this topic/problem? Are there things that currently limit what we know about this topic/problem?
7. Conclusions: what answers did your research provide for you? What are the unanswered questions, and/or the areas where further research is needed?

Possible Essay Topics

- What role does the environment play in child development?
- How do caregivers influence the development of a child?
- How important is playing for the child's understanding and learning about life?
- Why is speaking to a real person important for a child's growth?
- The changes in a child over the first 12 years of his/ her life.
- A topic approved by your teacher.