

PSY 448 Presentation & Paper

Class Syllabus Description of Presentation & Paper

Each member of the class will be making a seminar presentation regarding some aspect of applied clinical neuropsychology. You have already chosen your topic. You will carry out a major research project about this topic and present a summary of your work to the class for its understanding, questions, and analysis. There are 17 classes in the last six weeks of the course which have been reserved for student seminar presentations. It will thus be possible for each student to have a full class to him- or herself for a presentation, but we do not have to use the whole class.

For your presentation, you will be expected

- to make a 20-25-minute presentation of material to the class
- to hand out copies of your presentation in some type of written summary form to the class
- to be ready to answer questions by the other members of the class or by me

The form of the presentation itself can be varied. You might use multimedia, the white board, a planned discussion following a verbal report, or a demonstration and discussion of a particular neuropsychological issue.

By Tuesday, December 12, you will be expected to submit your seminar presentation to me at my office by 5 PM in the form of a final paper following APA (6th or 7th edition) format. You must give me your paper in two different forms:

- Paper: A printed version of your final paper (see the guidelines below for formatting)
- Electronic: In either pdf or MS Word format

Overview of Presentation & Paper

What am I “looking for” in your presentation & paper?

First, you will be addressing your peers in class who represent an audience of reasonably intelligent young adults. You should imagine that you are trying to communicate to other such adults rather than either clinical professionals or children/teenagers.

You should ask yourself this question: What would be the most important thing or things about my topic that would be helpful for an adult to know?

Keep in mind that such adults could be people facing a neurological or medical crisis themselves or with a loved one in their families (e.g., a child or a parent or a grandparent). They might find themselves some day in a role helping other people as a counselor or a teacher, etc. and it would be helpful for them to know what you are going to tell them.

In preparing your presentation and paper keep these goals in mind:

- Have I shown the ability to extract or focus upon what is important and done so without trying to cover too many issues or topics?
- Have I been able to synthesize my findings so that they are focused, relevant, flow smoothly and fit together?
- Is my presentation based upon valid and scientific sources? Do I refer to any of the scientific literature as well as materials found online to support my claims? Or, do I only use "Internet" sources without exploring further?
- Have I practiced my presentation so that it fits into a maximum of 20-25 minutes?
- Have I prepared a 1 or, at most, 2-page handout to distribute to the audience in class? Does the handout highlight **the key things** I want to say?

Guidelines for Final Paper

The paper should not merely be a printed version of what you presented in class. Hopefully any discussion and questions during your presentation may prompt you to make changes or additions to what you put together verbally.

Mechanics. Mechanics of the paper include

- margins of 1 inch on all sides
- typeface must be in Times New Roman at 12 points
- all pages must be numbered & be stapled or paper-clipped together in the top left corner; you may not use a plastic cover to submit the paper
- APA Format. I will not ask you to be slavish in following APA Format, i.e., minor errors will be understood. However, the paper needs to show a significant effort to approximate APA format in either its 5th or 6th edition. I will distribute in class an example paper in [pdf](#) format.
- Grammar and spelling should be accurate.
- The paper should be at least 10 pages (double spaced) including a cover sheet and references. Recall that the paper will be worth 25% of your grade.

Structure and Content

Introduction/Beginning

- Do you provide an overview of the topic?
- Do you provide any needed background to its specific topic?

Middle/Main Section

- Do you deal with the principal or most important ideas and issues involved in the topic you are reviewing?
- Do you present these ideas and issues in a systematic way?
- Do you maintain a scientific attitude and balanced judgment in your treatment of the topic?
- Does the paper address its audience in a helpful fashion, e.g., would a reasonably educated individual be able to profit from reading the paper?

End/Conclusion

- Does the paper summarize its main points?
- Does the paper acknowledge those questions or areas of uncertainty which remain to be answered?

References and Evidentiary Basis of Paper

- Do you have a sufficiently broad set of references to support your paper's comments (or does the paper rely upon a very small number of items)?
- Are the references used from primary sources (e.g., journal articles) or from secondary sources (e.g., a textbook)?
- Do your references reflect only "internet" sources, or do they include more scientific sources from journal articles and books?
- Do the references show timeliness, that is, they are reasonably current and up to date?
- Are the references appropriate, e.g., studies used/cited are drawn from relevant populations and employ reasonable/acceptable research methods?

Versions

You must submit to me two versions of your paper. One is the printed one which should follow the guidelines above. The second is an electronic version which I may submit for review by Turnitin.com to be satisfied it is original. The electronic version should be emailed to me and ought to be in pdf or MS Word format.