

**ESSAY COMPONENTS GUIDE**  
**PSYC 2010 3.0 B (S2023) – Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-5:30 p.m.**

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From Class 2 through Class 10, you will complete and submit Essay Components. For each Essay Component, you will complete a piece of writing that will contribute to your final paper. Due dates are provided below, in the course outline and in the due dates calendar.

Grading is on a pass/fail basis. You will receive marks for simply completing the assignments.

At two points in the semester, you will submit Essay Components Bundle Assignments for graded credit and feedback from your TA. Due dates are provided below, in the course outline and on the calendar of due dates. All Essay Components are due on eClass by 1:30 p.m. on the due date (unless otherwise specified). Late submissions will not be accepted for engagement credit, so please plan accordingly. This rule applies to all students in the course, without exception.

Instructions and deadlines for each Essay Component are listed below. Further information is provided in the lecture materials. Students must review the lectures and ensure that they follow the directions for each essay component. All Essay Components (except EC 1) require correct APA referencing.

### **Schedule of Essay Components**

**Essay Component 1:** Preliminary thoughts on controversial issue (~300 words). Demonstrate your preliminary thoughts about your topic using TWO of the prewriting strategies discussed in Lecture 1 (e.g., freewriting, questioning, clustering, listing)

**Due: May 11 by 1:30 p.m.**

**Essay Component 2:** Working annotated bibliography (minimum 3 references). Find 3 scholarly references related to your topic. All three sources must be peer-reviewed journal articles. Two of the articles must be empirical articles that provide evidence for the different positions that can be taken on the issue (e.g. Article 1 provides evidence for the position “Playing violent video games increases aggression” and Article 2 provides evidence for the position “Playing violent video games does not increase aggression”). The third article can be any type of peer-reviewed journal article (empirical article, theory paper, etc.). For each of the 3 sources you must (~200 words per source excluding the citation):

- provide the full citation in correct APA format (see Owl Purdue APA and York U Libraries SPARK for support)
- briefly summarize the source (include the following: focus of study, hypothesis, participants, methodology, results)
- note how the source is related to your other sources (i.e., make links among your sources; how do they relate?)
- evaluate the source’s credibility and value based on source type (primary article, theory paper, meta-analysis, review paper, peer-reviewed)

- state how the source will be useful for your essay

**Due: May 16 by 1:30 p.m.**

**Essay Component 3:** Context & definitions of key concepts (~400 words context PLUS 3-5 key definitions)

- Preliminary description of context AND key definitions
- For context, try to place your issue within a context (historical and otherwise). Why is it important? Why have people thought about it? Here are some ways to present this information:
  - This is an important issue to consider today because...
  - People first began to talk about this issue in... because ...
  - Research on this issue has shown...
  - Over time, society's approach to this issue has changed in the following ways... for the following reasons...
- For key definitions: briefly define 3-5 of the most important and/or technical concepts regarding your topic you have encountered so far; definitions must be paraphrased and include citations; definitions must be taken from scholarly sources

**Due: May 18 by 1:30 p.m.**

**Essay Component 4:** Preliminary claim (2 sentences)

- Clearly state your controversial issue AND the position you will be arguing regarding your issue (your claim); here are some ways to present this information
  - In this essay, I will address the following controversial issue...
  - Although there are a number of possible points of view regarding this issue, in this essay I will argue that... (i.e., give your position on the issue)

For this EC, you do not need to provide your reasons/logic that your claim

**Due: May 23 by 1:30 p.m.**

**\*\*Submit the EC 1-4 Bundle Assignment** on eClass by **11:59 pm. on May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Submit all ECs as a single Word or pdf document. Make any necessary revisions to each EC. Include a title page and reference section (APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format). Please review Lecture 4 for further instructions.

**Essay Component 5:** Supporting your claim (~400 words)

- briefly state your controversial issue and claim
- provide 2 lines of support for your claim.
- in a few sentences, explain clearly how each supports your claim, and provide scholarly evidence for each; here are some ways to present this information:
  - The reasons and support for my claim are as follows...
  - The following argument demonstrates why my claim is correct...
  - The following evidence supports this argument because/in the following way...

**Due: May 25 by 1:30 p.m.**

**Essay Component 6:** Counterclaim and rebuttal to the counterclaim (~400 words)

- briefly restate your controversial issue and your position on it
- in a few sentences, provide one counterclaim to your claim (with evidence to support the counterclaim)
- in a few sentences, explain how you will rebut your counterclaim (with evidence to support the rebuttal)
- here are some ways to present this information:
  - The following argument and evidence support the counterclaim... However, the following argument and evidence rebut the counterclaim and ultimately make the counterclaim less compelling than my claim...

**Due: June 6 by 1:30 p.m.**

**Essay Component 7:** Preliminary conclusion of your essay (~400 words)

- Your conclusion should guide the reader out of the essay. This is where you restate your claim and then put your claim into a larger context. Convince the reader that your claim has value and importance. Why does your claim matter? What are the new possibilities now that your claim has been established? Include implications of your argument.

**Due: June 8 by 1:30 p.m.**

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\*\*Submit **REVISED EC 1-6** on eClass by **11:59 p.m. on June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Submit all ECs (1-6) as a single Word document. Include a title page and reference section (APA format). Make changes to ECs 1 to 4 based on feedback from the 1-4 Bundle Assignment. Please review Lecture 7 for further instructions.

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**Essay Component 8:** First full draft of your essay

**Due: June 13 by 11:59 p.m.**

**Essay Component 9:** Second full draft of your essay

**Due: June 15 by 11:59 p.m.**

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\*Submit **final essay** on eClass by **11:59 p.m. on June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

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