



Overview: As the final project for this course, you will be creating a **hypothetical study**. You are not and should not be conducting human subject research for this project. It is not necessary for the purposes of this assignment. All human subject research requires written approval from the AU Institutional Review Board in order to protect the welfare and ensure ethical treatment of the subjects. This assessment will help you recognize the value of research in psychology and the value of supporting your claims with established views and research.

Prompt: For this final paper you will be sewing together the information and **ALL** the critical elements discussed and presented in the previous milestones. IT should be a complete and polished paper and it should reflect the incorporation of the feedback that has been given to you throughout the course. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric (below).**

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed for the final paper (for additional details for each section refer back to the individual rubric for that respective milestone):

- I. **Topic Proposal:** Provide the **research question** that your research paper will be attempting to explore. In other words, create a question that you could answer through research. Explain why you are interested in researching this topic.
- II. **Literature review:**
 - A. Summarize the **claims** made by the authors of the existing research in the field regarding the topic you have chosen.
 - B. Describe the specific **research designs** used in the presented research and explain how these designs were used to address the research topic.
 - C. How did the **research designs** used by researchers help in conducting their research?
 - D. Do you think the research in each of the articles was conducted in an **ethical manner**? Why or why not?
 - E. What overall **conclusions** can be reached by you, based on your own review and presentation of these studies and references?
- III. **Method Section:**
 - A. Reiterate your **research question**. What is the **purpose** of your hypothetical study?
 - B. Determine an appropriate **research design** that addresses your research question regarding your chosen topic and explain why this design was chosen. Also, what will your dependent (DV) and independent (IV) variables be for this study?
 - C. How many participants do you envision having for this hypothetical study and how will you select them (where will you be gathering your participants from)?
 - D. What type of sampling method will you use and why?
 - E. Will you be assigning participants to groups? Yes, no and explain why
 - F. What will the demographics of your participants be (gender, ethnicity, age range(s), SES, educational criteria (if relevant), history of medical and/or mental health diagnosis (if relevant)?
 - G. Where the study will take place (e.g. online, a lab, a university, a medical or mental health setting, a natural environment, etc.)? Explain why you have selected that particular setting.

- H. Over what period of time will data be collected?
- I. Explain what the measure's purpose is and what it studies
- J. Explain what type of measure it is (self-report, therapist, rating, teacher rating, parent rating, etc.) and explain why you consider it appropriate for your research study
- K. Describe how many items the measure has and any subscales it might include
- L. How/when will this measure be used and why (e.g. at the beginning of the study (pre-test), at the end of the study (post-test), etc.)
- M. Explain how you will account for **ethical issues** associated with your proposed research. In other words, how will you ensure that ethical guidelines will be followed appropriately and adequately?

IV. Discussion Section:

- A. Assuming that the results of your hypothetical study support your research question, **discuss how your hypothetical findings contribute to the knowledge** of your research question and the problem you were studying. This should include future research questions that are inspired by your hypothetical study as well as possible practical applications for the field.
- B. Describe the possible **limitations** your study had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used.
- C. Discuss any **ethical issues** your hypothetical study might have encountered and how it could be resolved in the future.
- D. Discuss **threats to the validity** of your hypothetical study.
- E. Provide a short **conclusion** that sums up the essence of the paper (a brief integrative summary).

Guidelines for Submission: You will upload the paper as a Word document to Blackboard for grading and feedback. Your submission for this milestone must be follow APA paper guidelines. It should include a cover page and reference page, be written with 12-point Times New Roman font and double spacing, and you will follow proper APA citation and reference format. You can use headings to differentiate between sections.

Any thoughts that are not your own **MUST** be cited in proper APA format. Direct quotes (short and long) **MUST** be cited and formatted following APA guidelines. Even if you paraphrase information, it **MUST** be cited. Papers are being evaluated through SafeAssign. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated. If plagiarism is discovered, it will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment and possible disciplinary action. AU's writing center can assist you if you are unsure. You can also use the following Purdue OWL link: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> to help you with your citations and references and you can avoid plagiarism by also using one of the following plagiarism checking links: <https://papersowl.com/free-plagiarism-checker> , <https://www.grammarly.com/plagiarism-checker> , and <https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/>

Final Paper Rubric

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (80%)	Needs Improvement (60%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Research Question	Meets “Proficient” criteria and presentation of the research question and why it was selected is especially detailed and clear	Develops a basic research question and explains interest in researching the topic	Develops a basic research question and explains interest in researching the topic, but research question and explanation are cursory and/or unclear	Does not develop a basic research question or explain the interest in researching the topic	4points
Literature Summary & Claims	Meets “Proficient” criteria and summary of the claims and conclusions is especially detailed and clear	Summarizes the claims and conclusions presented in the selected articles	Summarizes the claims and conclusions presented in the selected articles, but summary is cursory, unclear, and/or contains inaccuracies	Does not summarize the claims and conclusions presented in the selected articles	6points
Research Design description	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description of the research designs and their use is especially detailed and clear	Describes the specific research design(s) used in the selected articles AND explains how they were utilized	Describes the specific research design(s) used in the selected articles AND explains how they were used, but description is cursory and/or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe the specific research design(s) used in the selected articles nor explains how they were used	6points
Research design help	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description of how the research designs assisted in the research was presented in rich detail	Describes how the research designs used in the presented articles assisted in conducting the research	Describes how the research designs used in the presented articles assisted in conducting the research but description is cursory and/or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe how the research designs used in the presented articles assisted in conducting the research	6points
Ethics	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description of whether or not the presented research was conducted ethically is detailed and uses specific examples to demonstrate this	Explains whether or not the presented research was conducted in an ethical manner	Explains whether or not the presented research was conducted in an ethical manner but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, and/or lacks examples from the articles	Does not explain whether or not the presented research was conducted in an ethical manner	6points
Overall conclusions	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the conclusions that can be reached based on the analysis of the research	Explains the overall conclusions that can be reached based on analysis of the selected articles	Explains the overall conclusions that can be reached based on analysis of the selected research but description is cursory and/or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain overall conclusions based on the analysis of the selected articles	6points
Research Question & Purpose	Meets “Proficient” criteria and restatement of research question and the purpose of the study is especially clear and detailed	Briefly but completely restates the research question and explains the purpose of the study	Restates the research question and explains the purpose of the study but description is cursory and/or lacks clarity	Does not restate the research question nor explains the purpose of the study	3points

Research Design & DV/IV	Meets “Proficient” criteria and clearly identifies and describes the chosen research design, explains why it was chosen, and identifies the DV & IV. All descriptions use rich detail	Describes the specific research design that has been selected, clearly explains why it was chosen & clearly identifies the DV & the IV of the study	Describes the specific research design that has been selected, explains why it was chosen & identifies the DV & the IV of the study but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or is missing a required element	Does not describe the specific research design, does not explain why it was chosen and does not identify the DV and the IV of the study	6points
Participants	Meets “Proficient” criteria and described clearly and using rich detail.	ALL required participant elements are addressed and described clearly	Participant elements are addressed but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Required participant elements are not described at all	6points
Procedures	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen insight into how the procedure of the study would unfold	ALL required procedure elements are addressed and described clearly	Procedure elements are addressed but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Required participant elements are not described at all	6points
Measures	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen understanding of the measures(s) and insight into how measures will be employed	At least one measure is employed and each measure is described in rich detail as to its purpose, how & when it is used, & its details	At least one measure is employed & each measure is described as to its purpose, how & when it is used, & its details but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Does not employ any measures and does not address any of the other required elements for the measures section	6points
Ethics	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a keen understanding of the how the study would follow ethical guidelines.	Explains how issues of ethics would be accounted for in the proposed study	Explains how issues of ethics would be accounted for in the proposed study but explanation is cursory and/or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain how issues of ethics would be accounted for in the proposed study	6points
Contribution to knowledge	Meets “Proficient” criteria & discusses how the findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are discussed in rich detail	Discusses how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are discussed	Discusses how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are discussed but description is cursory and/or lacks clarity	Does not discuss how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are not discussed	6points
Possible limitations	Meets “Proficient” criteria & explains possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used in rich detail	Explains the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used	Describes the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or is missing a required element	Does not describe the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used	6points

Ethical Issues	Meets “Proficient” criteria & clearly discusses potential ethical issues & how they could be resolved in the future in rich detail	Discusses potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how they could be resolved in the future	Discusses potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how they could be resolved in the future but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Does not discuss potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how they could be resolved in the future	6points
Threat to Validity	Meets “Proficient” criteria and discussion is rich in detail and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of validity	Discusses threats to the study’s validity. Two general types of validity and at least one concept from each category is defined and discussed as it applies to the hypothetical study.	Discusses threats to the study’s validity but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Does not discuss threats to the study’s validity at all	6points
Conclusion	Meets “Proficient” criteria and summative conclusion that reflects a keen understanding of the paper’s essence	Provides a short summative conclusion that reflects the essence of the paper.	Provides a short summative conclusion that reflects the essence of the paper but description is cursory, unclear, or contains inaccuracies	Does not provide a conclusion	5points
Writing Mechanics	Submission is free of errors related to APA format, citations, references, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Writing is in APA format, easily understood, clear, and concise using proper citation methods where applicable with no major errors in citations, references & grammar	Writing has major errors with regard to citations, references, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Writing has critical errors with regard to citations, references, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	4points
				Total	100% (100points)