

Psy 341: Guidelines for Peer Review*

This is an important assignment. One's writing (and experiment proposing) gets better only by having serious, well-thought-out commentary from reviewers. Reading a draft and giving its author generic platitudes (e.g., "This is a nice proposal," "I enjoyed reading this," "well-written proposal") may seem like the nice thing to do, but those types of responses will not help the author improve the proposal. A sincere critique will be most helpful to your peers. Remember that a critic is not out just to spot problems and flaws - one dictionary defines critic as "one who forms and expresses judgments of the merits, faults, value or truth of a matter." The goal of peer reviews is to help your classmates do a better job on their final paper where the stakes (points) are much higher than on the first draft.

Thus, I am looking for your insights into experimental psychology, writing, and APA format. The grading rubric for this assignment is on the back of this sheet. As you read through the paper, you should note on the draft items such as misspellings, content inclusion problems, writing clarity (good or poor), flow and organization, APA formatting problems. You do not need to rewrite any of the content to fix it (e.g. just note if a sentence is not grammatical, e.g. run-on sentence).

After reviewing the paper, use the rubric to evaluate all categories on a 4-level scale, using the following scores:

0	"content not included",
check -	"content included but superficial or unclear"
check	"content included in fairly understandable form / some minor details missing"
check +	"detailed content included using clear / understandable writing"

Return the draft to your partner along with the rubric and a brief explanation for each score. You can also share more points verbally (i.e. you don't have to write everything down).

When you are evaluating the content, keep the following questions in mind:

Intro/Lit. Review: Is there an interesting opening paragraph? Is there a clear presentation of the problem? Is relevant literature cited and intelligently organized? Is there a statement of the hypothesis or question? Is logic given for each hypothesis?

Method: Can you understand how the author will conduct the experiment from the Method section? Are characteristics of the participants described, along with mention of any special selection method or requirement? Is the design clearly explained? Is there a precise description of material/apparatus (lists, questionnaires, equipment, etc.)? Is the procedure clearly outlined and detailed enough to be replicated? Are variables given with operational definitions? Are appropriate control measures identified?

Writing, grammar, etc.: Does the author use clear, informative, and interesting introductory paragraphs? Is a logical progression (flow) of ideas and arguments developed? Is each paragraph coherently organized? Are proper grammatical rules (e.g. subject and verb agreement) used? Does the writing appear to be original or does it seem too close to the original source (i.e., plagiarized or using direct quotes)? Are words used in a way that is appropriate for a college-level student? Check for spelling, punctuation, and passive voice.

APA format: Check for proper use of headings, margins, reference format, no hyphenation, right justification turned off, double spacing everywhere, and so on (everything in the *APA Publication Manual*). See the example paper in your text.

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Points allocated for each part of the final paper for your individual proposal are shown below, along with your score for each section. The points for each section of the paper were based on inclusion of necessary content without regard to writing issues. Writing (grammar, organization, etc.) was separately evaluated.

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Your Score</u>
Title page	3	
Introduction	20	
General introduction to paper	5	
Summary of key literature	9	
Hypotheses with logic	6	
Proposed Method	22	
Participants	3	
Design		
IVs and type (btwn/w-in)	3	
Levels with Operational Defs.	4	
Dependant Variables/Op Defs.	3	
Materials	4	
Procedure and Controls (CB / Match)	5	
Results	5	
Explain data preparation	3	
Give type of analysis used / why	2	
References (6 required; 4 must be journal articles)	6	
APA (paper format / proper citation formats)	6	
Consent /Debriefing forms	3	
Writing (grammar, clarity, organization)	10	
Total points	75	