



RESEARCH  
PROJECTS

# PSYCHOLOGY

TEACHER AND STUDENT  
RESOURCE MATERIAL

PSYCHOLOGY ○ **Contains**

- Journal Review
- School of Psychology
- Major Fields of Psychology
- Experiments and Studies
- Therapy Modalities
- Scientific Method
- Developing and Testing a Research Design



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# **Psychology Research Projects Research & Critical Thinking Skills Every Student Needs To Know**

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## **Teacher's guide**

### **Objectives:**

Psychology research projects are designed to develop student's skills in using the library, researching, writing and thinking critically. These skills enable students to succeed in high school and college. These projects may be adapted for students of different learning abilities.

Note: These projects may be utilized in any order.

### **Project #1—Journal Review**

1. Duplicate and distribute pages 1 & 2 for each student.
2. Students are to find one of the approved journals at the school, local or college library and write a review as outlined on page 1.

### **Project #2—School of Psychology Research Assignment**

1. Duplicate and distribute page 3 to each student.
2. Divide the class into seven groups (cooperative learning).
3. Assign each group a school of psychology to research.
4. Each group will write a paper based on the information on page 3.

### **Project #3—Psychologist Research Assignment**

1. Duplicate page 4 and distribute to each student.
2. Assign each student a psychologist.
3. Have each student develop a paper based on the assignment on page 4.

## **Project #4—Major Fields of Psychology**

1. Duplicate and distribute page 5 to each student.
2. Divide class into groups of two (collaborative learning).
3. Assign each pair a field of psychology.
4. Have each student develop papers based on the assignment on page 5.

## **Project #5—Experiments & Studies Research**

1. Duplicate page 1 and 6 and distribute to students.
2. Divide class into groups of two (collaborative learning).
3. Assign each pair an experiment or study.
4. Have students follow directions on page 1 to write a review of the assigned experiment or study.

## **Project #6—Therapy Modalities**

1. Duplicate page 7 and distribute.
2. Divide the class into groups of nine (cooperative learning).
3. Assign each student to research one therapy modality.
4. After the research is done, have groups discuss how the following would be treated:
  - A. Smoking
  - B. Drug Addiction
  - C. Overeating
  - D. Anorexia
  - E. Child Abuse
  - F. Wife Abuse

## **Lesson It 1—Scientific Method**

To do Project #7, it is suggested that this lesson on the scientific method be taught first.

1. Duplicate and distribute the handout on page 8.
2. Students need to realize that psychology is an empirical science.
3. Instructors should stress the need for ethics in research.
4. Discuss the different research methods listed on the handout.
5. Have students analyze the scientific method as utilized in the class studies listed in the handout.

## **Project #7—Developing & Testing a Research Design**

1. Duplicate pages 9–10 and distribute to students.
2. Divide class into groups (cooperative learning).
3. Monitor by the schedule you assign.

# **Guidelines for Reviews**

## **Instructions for Written Reports**

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Reviews may vary in length depending on the nature, content and length of the volume or article. Generally, a review for a book should be five (double spaced) and half that amount for a scholarly article. At the top of your review cite the author, full title, date and publisher, etc.

### **Selecting a Title**

Outside reading is intended to furnish in palatable form information not available or less pleasantly accessible in your texts. Acquaintance with the great mass of psychological literature can and should be an enjoyable experience. All articles that are not contained in the list of approved publications below must be approved by the instructor. Do not hesitate to discard a work in favor of another if the reading seems disappointing.

### **Reading the Account**

As you read, take notes on what impresses you, favorably or unfavorably, as well as on material that confirms or challenges previously held prejudices. As you finish the interpretation ask yourself, “What is my reaction to this account?” It would be considered trivial merely to state, “The article is interesting.”

### **Preparing the Review**

In general there are three functions of a review: (1) to describe content (2) to evaluate the article (3) to offer subjective reflections on the article. A good review is not a recitation of content word-for-word or chapter by chapter. Regurgitation of that type requires no special mental skills. The review should be informative, analytical and critical. It is not advisable to separate content from criticism; they should be interwoven. The following are questions you might consider when reviewing an article:

1. What was the writer’s purpose in preparing the work? Did he/she achieve this goal?
2. Is the article convincing? Is it comprehensive? Does it neglect important phases of the topic?
3. Does the author appear biased?
4. What intellectual questions has the author raised in your mind?
5. What are the unique aspects of the account?
6. Is the writing style popular or scholarly?

## HANDOUT

7. Does the author use primary or secondary sources? Are the sources fully cited?

You should attempt to be fair in your review. Criticisms should not be made in vague and general statements; they should be grounded in specific evidence from the content of the work. Give page numbers. Prepare your review to answer favorably the questions you raise.

Due Date\_\_\_\_\_

Possible Points\_\_\_\_\_

# List Of Approved Journals

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American Behavioral Scientist  
American Psychologist  
Child Development  
Day Care and Early Education  
Environment and Behavior  
Exceptional Children  
Journal of Abnormal Psychology  
Journal of Applied Psychology  
Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology  
Journal of Counseling Psychology  
Journal of Educational Psychology.  
Journal of Experimental Psychology General  
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance  
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition  
Journal of General Psychology  
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology  
Journal of Social Issues  
Psychological Bulletin