



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



**SOCIAL STUDIES
SCHOOL SERVICE**

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Published by:

Social Studies School Service

10200 Jefferson Blvd

P.O. Box 802

Culver City, CA 90232

Phone: (800) 359-0961

www.socialstudies.com

ISBN# 978-1-56004-800-8

Cover Design: Mark F. Gutierrez

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

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?

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

Schools of Psychology Research Assignment

Directions: Each group will prepare a 6-9 page paper (not counting footnotes, cover, and bibliography) which addresses the following:

1. Name of School
2. Founder(s)
3. Approximate founding date
4. Major beliefs of this school
5. Major impact on the field

Schools of Psychology

Structuralism

Functionalism

Behaviorism

Gestalt

Psychoanalysis

Cognitive

Psychologists Research Assignment

Directions: Each student will be assigned a major psychologist to research. Each student will prepare a 3-5 page paper (not counting footnotes, cover and bibliography) addressing the following:

1. Major publications
2. School of Psychology to which he/she belongs
3. Major impact of his/her work in the field
4. Types of research methods utilized in his/her experiments
5. Practical applications of the research

Famous Psychologists

Alfred Adler

Abraham H. Maslow

Jean Piaget

B. F. Skinner

Louis L. Thurstone

John B. Watson

Wilhelm Wundt

Gordon W. Allport

Kenneth B. Clark

Sigmund Freud

Arnold L. Gesell

Karen Horney

Carl Jung

Wolfgang Kohler

Ivan P. Pavlov

Carl Rogers

Edward L. Thorndike

Edward Titchener

Max Wertheimer

Kurt Koffka

Alfred Binet

Anna Freud

Erich Fromm

Harry F. Harlow

Clark L. Hull

Major Fields of Psychology

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Directions: Both students will research the Field of Psychology assigned and write a 3 - 5 page paper (not counting footnotes, cover and bibliography) addressing the following.

1. Founder of school
2. Basic teaching of each school
3. Impact of this school on psychology
4. Application of this school in society

Abnormal Psychology

Clinical Psychology

Comparative Psychology

Educational Psychology

Industrial Psychology

Personality Psychology

Social Psychology

Psychometric Psychology

Physiological Psychology

Psychophysiology

Experimental Psychology

Cognitive Psychology

Psychological Psychology

Engineering Psychology

Experiments & Studies Networking Assignments

Directions: Both students will research the experiment or study assigned. One student will write a “pro” paper (3–5 pages) and one a “con” paper (3–5 pages). “Pro” will support the findings and their possible applications and “con” will attack the methodology and findings.

Psychologist	Name of Experimen/Study	Date
1. Zimbardo	Prison Experiment	1973
2. Milgram	Behavior Study of Obedience	1963
3. Gans	Study of Urban Villagers	1962
4. Bakeman & Brownlee	Parallel Play	1980
5. Becker	Outsiders: Study in the Sociology of Deviance	1963
6. Darley & Latane	Bystander Intervention in Emergencies	1968
7. Freedman, Levy, Buchanan & Price	Crowding & Human Agressiveness	1972
8. Gwaltney & Gibbs Premarital	Cohabitation 1986	
9. Watson	“Little Albert Experiment”	
10. Petty, Cacioppo, & Goldman	Argument-Based Persuasion	1981
11. Prinsky & Rosenbaum Rock n Roll	Teenage Impressions of	1987
12. Bouchard & McGue	Genetic Relations & IQ	1981
13. Zajong & Markus	Influence of Family Size on Intelligence	1975
14. Winograd & Soloway	On Forgetting the Location of Things Stored in Special Places	1986
15. Palumbo	Dreams and Their Relationship to Events of the Day	1978

Therapy Modalities

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Directions: Each group will research the Therapy Modality, looking for practical applications, success rates and differences. Groups can develop 5–6 page papers or use information to answer teacher directed questions.

Adlerian

Electric

Psychodynamic

Transactional Analysis

Gestalt

Systematic Desensitization

Implosive

Behavior Modification

Aversion

Scientific Method

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These are the six steps in developing a valid research design:

1. Develop questions about a topic or subject.
2. Develop a hypothesis. (What you are attempting to prove or disprove?)
3. Gather Information from appropriate sources to ascertain if your hypothesis is valid.
4. Evaluate the information gathered to decide if it is sound.
5. Test the hypothesis against the information to see if it is valid. Research methods may include, but are not limited to:
 - double-blind study
 - counterbalancing
 - randomization
 - participant observer
 - placebos
 - group matching
 - statistical analysis
6. Draw a conclusion and write your findings.

Application

How was the scientific method used in the following research designs?

Zimbardo's Prison Experiment

Milgram's Behavior Study of Obedience

Pavlov's Classical Conditioning

Group Project: Developing & Testing a Research Design

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The general purpose of the project is for you to gain firsthand experience in observing human behavior, collecting data, and interpreting that data in light of past theory and research.

The class will be divided into groups of no more than four persons. Each group will select a topic and develop a research design.

The source of your ideas can be from your own personal interest, something that struck you during lecture or in the text, a news story, etc. You will need to do some supplementary background reading to gain extensive knowledge of the field. The main thing, however, is for you to research a topic that interests you and to gain the experience of exploring your ideas through empirical research.

Below are examples of some project topics. These are only examples. As you come up with your plans, remember that we must conduct research with ethics in mind. Your research design must be approved by the instructor.

Examples:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Conformity: | Study the effects of signs on behavior, or the effects of “authority” on violations of rules on signs. |
| Environmental: | Study personal space and reactions to personal space invasion in a variety of settings. Are there differences in each setting; Why? Propose good seating arrangements for a cafeteria area. |
| Sexual behavior: | Study people’s behavior in the “adult” section of magazine rack. Study male sex aggression through library research, interviews of police, a visit to a rape crisis center. |
| Persuasion: | Study techniques of successful salespeople; get permission to go around with some door-to-door salespeople to observe techniques, etc. Analyze the persuasion techniques used in a large number of television or magazine ads. Study bumper stickers. |
| Aggression: | Find out how researchers code the content of television shows. Try to study aggression on television . |
| Sex Roles: | Use your imagination. |

Presentation:

A brief paper is required and is due on_____. A brief description of your project should be given to me no later than_____. The paper should describe: 1) the nature of the problem you are studying, why it is of interest, its relation to any past research and theory, and what you expect to find, 2) how you conducted your research, 3) The results you obtained, and, 4) your conclusions. In your conclusion be sure to include what these results lead you to believe about human behavior, your explanations for the results, and what future research might be done to further explore the topic? The group paper should be a maximum of seven typed pages.

A short (5-10-minute) oral report of your findings will take place in class beginning_____. Presentations may be in lecture format, panel discussion, or with slides, or videotape presentation.

