Research Paper

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Frequently Asked Questions: Read to find the answers!

How many points is the paper worth?

100 points

When is it due?

April 15.

What is the purpose of this paper?

The purpose of the research paper is to assess the current state of knowledge about your chosen topic and think critically about existing literature and analyze the practical impact that current knowledge has on families. You will also learn to apply Family Systems Theory.

What objectives does the paper meet?

Departmental Objectives	Course Objectives
1. Students will be able to integrate and apply theory and research to the understanding of HDFS by a. Identifying appropriate theory for individual, family and community interaction and/or development b. Identifying and applying theoretical bases to empirical literature	1. We will examine major theoretical approaches to the study of families.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate and disseminate knowledge about social, cognitive, psychological, physiological, and emotional development as it relates to optimal individual and family function throughout the lifespan by	2. We will identify adaptations in family structure and interactional patterns during family transition.
	3. We will gain an understanding of intergenerational family dynamics.
3. How to critically and scientifically identify and evaluate the changing social environment. 4. How to disseminate this information and produce high quality written presentations.	5. We will explore the impact of various social issues on American families.
	6. We will consider the diversity within and between families.

How do I know what topic to choose?

Please select a topic that relates directly to at least one of your textbook chapters to include sufficient information from the text.

You are also expected to discuss and apply Family Systems Theory throughout the paper, so be sure to include an overview in the introduction and a discussion of how the perspective enables you to look at families within the framework of your chosen topic throughout and in the conclusion.

What are the required components of a research paper?

- Introduction: Use current literature to support and introduce the topic. Include a thesis statement that tells the reader exactly what you intend to present.
- Summary of Literature: Do not just state what the article says, but tell the reader what it means. What knowledge does it contribute to your topic?
    - How does it relate to course material? You should use your textbook as a source.
    - What are the practical implications of the information?
    - Synthesize the literature by finding the common themes across the research. Instead of summarizing each study individually, discuss the research as a whole and explain how one study helps us understand another.
- Conclusion: Tie it all together. Integrate the research your introduction into your summary and tell the reader about the big picture.

Note: The research should reinforce the entire paper, so use it when applicable

What sources do I need to use?

You must use your textbook as one source.

All other sources need to be empirical sources from peer-reviewed journals.

All sources must be recent and published between 2002 and 2013.

If you use sources out of this time period, they will not be accepted.

What is an empirical source?

Empirical studies disseminate new knowledge. Articles of this type will have an Analyses and Results section. Empirical articles are not summaries of others' research, policy papers, reviews

or editorials.

You will not receive credit for non-empirical sources, i.e. Wikipedia, Ehow, About.com, Science Daily, etc.

How do I integrate sources into my paper?

Support your statements or arguments using research. Remember that this is your research paper, and I want to hear from you. Although quotations can be helpful, you should not rely on them. Direct quotations should not account for more than 10% of your paper – not a lot! If you do use them, please understand that it is PLAGIARISM if you do not provide appropriate APA citations (author, year, page number).

The point is that you understand the material. If all you do is quote someone else, all that tells me is that you know how to find information, not that you understand what it means.

Read through the source. If there is valuable information, summarize it and then include it in your paper. If you take any idea from a source at all, you must include the correct in-text citation (author, year).

How many sources do I need?

You are required to have 5 sources in addition to the textbook = 6 total.

Can I use an article on the supplemental reading list, or one discussed in class?

Yes.

How do I find empirical sources?

Use the UGA Library Galileo Search Engine - http://www.libs.uga.edu/research/

How long does the paper need to be?

The research paper will be 10-12 double-spaced pages, in 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins. This DOES NOT include the reference page(s).

How do I cite information?

All information provided in the research handout, video example, and reaction should follow APA guidelines, 6th Edition. This means that you do not copy & paste, or use text or ideas that you get from a website or empirical source without using quotations and/or in-text citations with a reference list.

More details can be found here: http://www.apastyle.org/

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/

If you ask a week in advance, I am happy to review your assignments for APA format.

Note: Your supplemental reading list is in APA!

	Exemplary	Competent				Developing			
Comprehensiveness	The topic is addressed comprehensively. The reader is left without questions. The student does not just summarize the research, but synthesizes it and provides implications.	The topic is addressed comprehensively, but the reader is left with a few key questions. The student provides mostly summaries of the research, and does a little synthesis. The implications provided, if any, are not critically thought about.		The topic is addressed somewhat comprehensively. The reader is left with some questions. The student provides mostly summaries of the research, and does not provide good synthesis of the content. The implications provided, if any, are not critically thought about.		The topic is not addressed comprehensively. The reader is left with some questions that are key to understand the topic. The implications provided are limited or missing from some studies.		The topic is not addressed comprehensively. The reader is left with many questions. Implications are not addressed.	
	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	0
Quality of the content	The essay includes relevant examples and makes sense. The student clearly demonstrates their comprehension of the material. The sources used meet all of the criteria.	The essay includes some relevant examples and makes sense. The student demonstrates their comprehension of the material. The sources used meet most of the criteria.		The essay includes a few relevant examples and makes some sense. The student somewhat demonstrates their comprehension of the material. The sources used meet some of the criteria.		The essay includes few relevant examples and makes little sense. The student does not clearly demonstrate their comprehension of the material. The sources used meet very few of the criteria.		The essay does not include relevant examples and does not make sense. The student does not demonstrate their comprehension of the material. The sources used do not meet the criteria, or are not used at all.	
	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	0
Style: APA & Format of the Paper	Exactly follows all the requirements related to format and layout.	Closely follows all the requirements related to format and layout.		Follows, for the most part, all the requirements related to format and layout, but some are not followed.		Follows poorly the requirements related to format and layout.		Does not at all follow the requirements related to format and layout.	
	5	4		3		2		0	
Grammar	The essay is well written from start to finish, without spelling, grammar or use of English errors. The essay is well organized, clear and presents ideas in a coherent way.	The essay is well written for the most part, without spelling, grammar or use of English errors. The essay is for the most part well organized, clear and presents ideas in a coherent way.		The essay is well written, and contains a few spelling errors, and/or grammar errors and/or use of English errors. The essay is not well organized, lacks some clarity and/or does not present ideas in a coherent way.		The essay is not well written, and contains many spelling errors, and/or grammar errors and/or use of English errors. The essay is badly organized, lacks clarity and/or does not present ideas in a coherent way.		The essay is not well written, and contains many spelling errors, and/or grammar errors and/or use of English errors. The essay is badly organized, lacks clarity and does not present ideas at all.	
	5	4		3		2		0	