

Specialty Areas in Psychology

Week 1 Deadlines

- A completed Specialty Areas in Psychology must be submitted in the Dropbox as a Rich Text Format (RTF), Word (DOC or DOCX), or Portable Document File (PDF) by 11:59pm Friday.
- Report your findings in a discussion forum by 11:59pm Friday
- A response to one other person's discussion by 11:59pm Sunday

Instructions

* Be sure to complete the Careers in Psychology Tutorial before proceeding.

Choose a Specialty Area

This week you are learning about the many facets of the wonderful field of psychology. Which specialty areas did you find most interesting? Use the American Psychological Association (APA) website and review the information they have posted about these specialty areas: <http://www.apa.org/about/division/index.aspx>

Learn More

On the APA website each specialty has a listing of their publications (Newsletters, Journals, and Division Sponsored). You are expected to read and report on 1 newsletter or article in their journal OR Division Sponsored publications. Be sure to pick publications that you find interesting and are prepared to discuss.

Initial Discussion Questions

Discuss the specialty area that you chose with your classmates.

- Which specialty area did you choose and why?
- If you were to pursue this specialty area which type of career would you most hope to get into?
- What would be your biggest concerns? Do some research to find answers to these concerns and report what you found out (e.g. how much money could you make, is it easy to find a job, what would you expect to do in this career).
- What publication did you read and what did you find out? Summarize it and include a full APA citation.

Discussion Responses

Read another student's discussion about a specialty area that interests you, such as one that you didn't choose, or one who chose the same area but a different career or article. Engage in a conversation about anything in their post that is interesting to you or that you would like to elaborate on. Do some more research on the concerns that he/she had about that career or further research on the topic of the article that they chose. Be sure to demonstrate strong critical thinking skills in your post (see the Rubric for more explanation of this).

Specialty Areas in Psychology

APA Format

Students are expected to submit original work, which means that no more than 10% of the discussion should be quoted (or copied) material. In addition students are expected to use APA in-text citations as well as provide an APA Reference Page at the end. Information about APA format and plagiarism are posted in the Weekly Schedule. Failure to appropriately cite sources in this project may lead to an automatic ZERO score.

Tips to Maximize Points

Apply concepts and theories. Anytime you are asked to post an analysis you will be scored on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts you've learned as they relate to the topics you are discussing. Therefore to maximize points you should discuss concepts that were presented in the lesson(s) and apply them clearly when answering posted discussion questions. You are not expected to apply all of the concepts but you will be scored on how well you explain the ones that you do choose to apply in this project.

Stay actively engaged. You should be sure to pick topics that you find interested because you will feel compelled to engage in discussion with your group. If you are regularly participating in the process you will be creating opportunities to earn points by applying the concepts and theories you are learning about. There is no formula for how many times you have to post, however you are expected to post a minimum of 2 times.

Pay attention to project deadlines. If you miss a deadline you will not receive credit for that requirement.

Penalties

Students will receive no credit for the following actions:

- Does not submit the complete discussion in the Dropbox or unacceptable format
- Any occurrence of plagiarism!
- Exceeds the 10% quotation maximum when submitting the discussion in the Dropbox
- Failure to use APA citations when submitting the discussion in the Dropbox
- Failure to use APA citations when posting a summary in the discussion