

## **Papers/Presentations**

- Students will do one *research paper* for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, one *case study paper* for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and *one in-class presentation* 4th quarter.
- No duplicate topics will be allowed, so sign up early. If you decide to change your chosen topic or trade with someone, it should be reflected on the sign up sheet.
- **Your Research Paper** will be 10 pages, typed, with 1-inch margins, double spaced, and APA style documented pages (*not counting title page or bibliography*). Google Perdue Owl website for great examples of APA style papers (*use this as your primary reference*). About 1/4 of your paper must include a conclusion based upon your own well measured thoughts, opinions, and/or experiences relating to the research topic. **All work process materials must be submitted as well** (*including rough drafts, notes, rough source-cited sheets, note cards, scribbles, printed web pages, etc.*).
- **Your Presentation** will include handouts, audio visual devices (*charts, graphs, photos, brief video clip, music clip, PowerPoint, slide show, etc.*) and/or a guest speaker.
- You may enlist the help of someone who is experienced in the topic but you must retain ownership of the actual presentation.
- Write your name and topic on the sign up sheet.
- Your presentation must take one full class period.
- Peer assessment will account for 10% of your presentation grade.
- See the “Peer Review” sheets for specific grading criteria
- **If you enlist an in-class guest speaker for part or all of your presentation:**
  - **You must use an interview format**, so you would be wise to coordinate your questions with your speaker in order to best illuminate *their* favorite concepts or areas of expertise
  - **You must provide the speaker, as well as myself, with the questions you plan to ask them well in advance of the interview. THIS IS MANDATORY.**
- **Presentation date will be determined by lottery.**

These are examples of topics which will hopefully stimulate ideas. You may use these or submit something else **for prior approval.**

1. Interview a rape crisis councilor in class.
2. Present media samples of antisocial behavior in groups and offer your explanations.
3. Research paper on actual psychiatric case studies.
4. A presentation including the psychological characteristics found in school shooters.
5. Paper and/or presentation on the effects of real world violence on children.
6. Paper and/or presentation on the effects of television violence on children.
7. Presentation on the amusing/controversial research methods in social psychology.
8. Research paper on psycho surgery; past, present, and future.
9. Presentation on the history and abuse of early treatments for mental disorders.
10. Research paper comparing the effectiveness of various therapies.
11. Interview someone who has undergone psycho surgery.

12. Presentation on bizarre treatments and claims or wrong directions on psychotherapy.
13. Report on a visit to the Manchester Mental Health Center or some other facility.  
Including relevant research data.
14. Research paper on various treatments for schizophrenia
15. Research paper and/or presentation on the history of the uses and abuses of E.C.T.
16. Research paper on the characteristics and treatments of various personality disorders.
17. Presentation of the more bizarre cases of amnesia, fugue, and dissociative identity disorder.
18. Do volunteer work at a local organization for people with mental disorders (journal and paper).
19. Interview someone who has been *diagnosed* O.C.D. or panic disorder.
20. Presentation on unusual treatments using exposure therapy.
21. Research paper on gender differences in anxiety disorders.
22. Interview someone who has been *diagnosed* as agoraphobic or other phobic.
23. Research paper on the history of and explanations for somatoform disorders.
24. Presentation of cultural differences in emotional displays.
25. Research paper in the follow-ups of the happiness of people who win the lottery.
26. Research paper on the history, methods, and applications of the polygraph machine.
27. Take a lie detector test and report on its accuracy.
28. Surf the internet, find a topic, create a provocative title and brief preliminary outline and submit for approval.
29. Report to class on a visit to a weight control clinic (research psychological concepts).
30. Report on gender based, psychology related issue (supported with sound research).
31. Research paper and/or presentation on the effectiveness of various treatments for anorexia and bulimia.
32. Presentation on various aspects of mental retardation (assessment criteria, programs, mainstreaming, marriage, sheltered workshops, etc.).
33. Research paper on I.Q. discrimination (ie. Tests, Bell Curve, Mensa, etc.).
34. Visit/Investigate a program for the mentally retarded, gifted kids, autism, intervention.
35. Research paper/presentation on domestic violence, abusive teen relationships, etc.
36. Paper/presentation on the controversy surrounding repressed memories.
37. Presentation/paper on autistic savants.
38. Interview a sexual abuse therapist. Prepare the class the day before with a brief presentation.
39. Interview someone who professionally trains dogs and discuss the psychological techniques applied in such training.
40. Interview a child psychologist on the effective use of reinforcement/punishment.
41. Paper on the impact or non-impact of violent videogames on the psyche of American kids (pick a side)
42. Presentation of how therapy diminished your phobia and the impact it has had on your life (include research for enhancement).
43. Research paper on the uses and abuses of aversive therapies.
44. Presentation/paper on the uses, abuses, and validity of hypnotism.
45. Interview a professional hypnotist (supplemental paper required).

46. Provide literature to the class and a detailed description of a 12-step program (or compare and contrast various programs).
47. Research paper on how particular drugs affect the central nervous system and behavior.
48. Interview someone you know who is a recovering alcoholic/addict.
49. Interview a spokesperson from a drug prevention or rehabilitation program.
50. Research paper on the many different dream therapies.
51. Interview a professional who conducts group therapy.
52. Interview someone who has been *diagnosed* with Seasonal Affective Disorder (include a paper on cause and treatment).
53. Interview someone who has been *diagnosed* with a sleep disorder (include presentation on causes and treatment).
54. Research paper on human circadian rhythms and their impact.
55. Research paper on sleep deprivation.
56. Research presentation on brain washing techniques and applications.
57. Presentation on the history of lobotomies.
58. Research paper on a specific type of brain damage such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's.
59. Research a topic and support or reject its findings with your own objective survey.
60. See me with a creative and revolutionary idea that struck you during a *eureka!* moment.

**OTHER TOPIC IDEAS:**

61. ADD & ADHD
62. Sleep disorders
63. Psychological ramifications of certain cults
64. Thanatology/Stages of dying
65. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
66. Amnesia/causes, effects, therapies
67. The A.P.A./what it is, what it does
68. Psycho-physiological profile of "risk-takers" and "adrenaline junkies"
69. Pedophilia
70. The biological basis of emotions
71. Depression/causes and cures
72. Evolution of brain structures
73. Psychological impact of divorce on kids
74. Self concept maintenance through defense mechanisms
75. Careers in the field of psychology
76. Culture biased vs. culture fair testing
77. Extra sensory perception – build a case supporting it or attacking it (or both)