

## PSY 150: Writing Assignment #1

Writing is a process of communication between a writer and an audience. To become a better writer, requires practice and feedback. The writing assignments in this course will offer both. They will also: (1) give you practice working with the major themes in the course, (2) prepare you for the tests and (3) provide me a measure of your understanding of the material.

### Paper Topic

This assignment will tell me how much of the reading and discussion you understand. It is an extension of your Internet Activities and our discussion exercises. See the list of questions and hypotheses related to “poor test performance.” Pick ONE question and hypothesis, and then design a study that uses the experimental method to test the hypothesis. You must (1) operationally define “poor test performance” and any other relevant variables (2) identify your sampling method, (3) identify the *levels* of your *independent variable*, (4) identify the *dependent variable(s)* you’ll be measuring, (5) describe how you’ll *collect your data* and (6) mention how you’ll *assign participants* to each level of the independent variable.

### Questions and hypotheses:

Here are the questions and hypotheses that you may use:

**QUESTION:** Does bad diet cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Bad diet causes poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Does sleep deprivation cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Sleep deprivation causes poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Does stress cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Stress causes poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Do distractions during study cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Distractions during study cause poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Does aging cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Aging causes poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Does caffeine consumption cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Caffeine consumption causes poor test performance.

**QUESTION:** Does alcohol consumption cause poor test performance?

**HYPOTHESIS:** Alcohol consumption causes poor test performance.

## **Format:**

Your paper must be:

- 1 to 3 pages long
- Typed
- Double-spaced
- Use 1-inch margins
- Font: use Times
- Font size: use 12-point
- Saved in Rich Text Format (RTF) and submitted as an email attachment
- Your name should appear at the top-right of each page

## **Evaluation and grading:**

The first writing assignment is worth 60 points. You will be graded on how well you address the 6 requirements presented in the writing guide under “Paper Topic.” You will also be graded on proper mechanics (grammar, syntax, spelling) used to communicate your ideas. Most likely, your word processing program has a grammar and spell checker. I encourage you to use that tool, before you submit your assignment.

## **Submitting Your Work:**

Save your work in Rich Text Format (RTF). To do this in Microsoft Word, use your mouse pointer to select the “File” menu. Select the “Save As...” menu option. In the window that appears, find the “Format” drop-down menu. Click on this menu and select “Rich Text Format”. Now give your file a filename and select a location to save the file. Finally, click on the “Save” button. Email your document as an attachment to your instructor at: [blw@csun.edu](mailto:blw@csun.edu)