

Course Code: PSY5104-8

Course Start Date: 03/20/2017

Section: Theoretical and Research Background of Human Development

Week: 1

Activity: Analyze Research Designs in Lifespan Development

Activity Due Date: 03/26/2017

Activity Description

Warm-Up Activity 1.1: Begin Your Research

Step 1: Choose a General Topic

When choosing a topic for a paper, begin with a general topic that is relevant to your professional life, or perhaps a topic relevant to your thesis topic. A paper on a relevant topic will not only help keep you interested, but the research you perform on such topics may also be useful to you in your career or later when preparing your thesis.

To choose a topic for your final paper, browse the table of contents, chapter summaries, and reflect on your own interests and questions regarding the field of human development.

Step 2: Begin Your Research

Once you have a general topic in mind, begin to research this topic in the NCU Library.

Keep a record of the keywords, Boolean operators, and search limits you employed. Remember, you will want to search for peer-reviewed research articles published in the past five years. Locate at least seven research articles that might be appropriate for your research topic (you will not necessarily use all of these in your paper). As you continue your research, you will be able to choose a specific topic of research for the focus of your paper.

Step 3: Read the Research

Now that you have found some articles that may be applicable to your research, the next challenge is to read them! Wading through research articles, with their particular structure and specialized vocabulary, is an acquired skill. No one is born being able to read research articles, so if you find them a bit daunting, you are not alone. The NCU Academic Success Center (ASC) supports your efforts to read research articles.

Step 4: Take Notes

Taking careful notes of what you read is an essential and timesaving habit to develop. When you locate an article of interest, note the full bibliographical information and at least one topic line to help you remember what about the article interested you. When conducting initial research, determining which article will actually be of use to you in your paper or research can be nearly impossible. Too often, we get to the middle of our paper, remember a great idea or research result, and then have to wonder, "Now where did I read that?" Keeping careful notes of the location and topic of what you read can help you do a good "search" without having to "re-search" to find material you read once but do not remember where you found it. You may want to use handwritten notes in a special notebook or on notecards; or, you may want to use an electronic note-keeping application.

Step 5: Narrow the Topic and Develop a Question

After searching, reading, and taking notes, you are ready to narrow the topic and form a question or specific topic for your research.

Warm-Up Activity 1.2: Types of Psychological Research Articles

Throughout your graduate studies, you will be asked to locate and review research in psychology. Beyond the sheer volume of research available, it is important that you understand the types of articles that you will encounter. Review the PowerPoint presentation located under your weekly resources titled, *The Body of Psychological Research*, which explains the different types of scholarly literature you will find.

Warm-Up Activity 1.3: How to Synthesize Research

Your courses will require you to locate and synthesize research to support your assignments. Synthesis takes practice. Review the PowerPoint presentation, *How to Synthesize Research*, located under your weekly resources.

Spotlight on Skills: APA Form and Style

Throughout this course and other courses here at Northcentral University, you are required to follow APA form and style when preparing assignments. If you are unfamiliar with APA form and style, take "The Basics of APA Style" tutorial located under your weekly resources. Are you already familiar with APA form and style? Check out this blog for deeper discussions and examples: APA Style Blog. You can also visit Frequently Asked Questions about APA Style.

Skills Builder: Northcentral Information Literacy Tutorial

This week, you will evaluate information sources and resources for your Signature Assignment on an aspect of human development. To prepare for this, first take the *Northcentral Information Literacy Tutorial*, located under your weekly resources.

Assignment

This assignment has two parts. Both part can be combined and submitted in one document.

Part 1

For part one of this task, you will submit a summary of the proposed topic for your Signature Assignment (due in Week 8). Review the instructions for your Signature Assignment and prepare a summary of the topic you have selected.

Length: 1 page

Part 2

Next, you will select two research articles relevant to your topic, explore their chosen research method, and summarize the results. To get started, see if you can find two recent (within the past five years) scholarly research studies which were published within a peer-reviewed journal, where an actual experiment took place (not a literature review or a meta-analysis). Choose articles that you might like to use in your signature paper for this course. (NOTE: You will collect a total of 10 articles throughout this course that you will use in your signature assignment, which is due in Week 8).

For your paper this week:

- A) Provide bibliographical information for each article (full APA style reference listing).
- B). Present the research questions for each study. (What did researchers want to find out?)
- C). See if you can identify which method the researcher used to get at any age-related changes (e.g., cross-sectional, longitudinal, or cross-sequential). Why do you think they chose this method?
- D). Were there any possible generational cohorts present in this study? What might they be? Can you give an example?

Be sure to use the academic integrity checklist, located under your weekly resources, when preparing your assignments to assist you in keeping track of your research information. This checklist is not graded but will help your faculty in providing you additional direction and information on your writing and research skills.

Length: 5-7 pages

Your paper should demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the ideas and concepts presented in the course by providing new thoughts and insights relating directly to this topic. Your response should reflect scholarly writing and current APA standards. Be sure to adhere to Northcentral University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Upload your document and click the Submit to Dropbox button.

Learning Outcomes

- 2.0 Analyze research in the field of lifespan psychology.

Resources

Books	
Reference	Instruction
Santrock, J. W. (2015) Essentials of life-span development	Read Chapter 1

Websites	
Reference	Instruction
American Psychological Association. (2015). APA Style Blog. http://blog.apastyle.org/	Review website
American Psychological Association. (2015). Frequently asked questions about APA style. APA Style. http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/index.aspx	Review website
American Psychological Association. (n.d.). The basics of APA style [Tutorial]. http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx	Review website
Northcentral University. (2014). Foundations for expanding knowledge: Academic integrity [Tutorial]. http://learners.ncu.edu/public_images/learner_portal/AI_Tutorial/Academic_Integrity_Tutorial.htm	Review tutorial
Northcentral University. (n.d.). Information Literacy Tutorial. http://library.ncu.edu/Home/ILTutorial	Review tutorial
Sparrow, B., Liu, J., and Wegner, D. (2011). Google effects on memory: Cognitive consequences of having information at our fingertips. <i>Science</i> , 333, 776-778. DOI: 10.1126/science.1207745	Read article

Document/Other	
Reference	Instruction
Academic Integrity Checklist AcademicIntegrityChecklist.docx	Download document
Northcentral University. (n.d.). How to synthesize research. PSY5104-How-to-Synthesize-Research.pptx	Review document
Northcentral University. (n.d.). The body of psychological research. PSY5104-The_Body_of_Psychological_Research.pptx	Review document