Social Psychology Research Paper Requirements. The research paper for this semester requires you to research a concept from your Social Psychology class and its relationship to some phenomena in society that interests you. As you learned this semester, there are definition, explanation and relationship questions. You will be creating relationship questions, and you will need to determine your independent variable (I.V.) and your dependent variable (D.V.). For example, you may be interested in the relationship between bystander effect and rape on college campuses. If you’re hypothesizing that an increase in bystander effect leads to an increase in rape on college campuses, then bystander effect is your I.V. and rape on college campuses is your D.V. Similarly, suppose you’re interested in the relationship between gender stereotypes and voting patterns in the 2016 Presidential Election. If you’re hypothesizing that gender stereotypes impacted voting patterns in the 2016 Presidential Election then gender stereotypes is your I.V. and voting patterns in the 2016 Presidential Election is your D.V. Please note that these are general topics, and what will help tailor your research is narrowing topics by social category – race, class, gender etc.

You will search for reputable sources that support your hypothesis and utilize some of the statements of these reputable sources to buttress your argument. Ensure that you are clear on the difference between citing a source and plagiarism. Additionally, your paper should not be majority sources while lacking your own scholarly writing and argument. Be clear that while you are of course including your own scholarly writing and argument, there should be no first person narrative in this paper. It is a research paper, not a position paper which can be written in first person.

Other paper requirements include:

* The paper must be 7-9 pages of CONTENT – this does not include a works cited page or cover page. However, the paper must have a works cited page.
* The works cited page must be in APA format
* The paper must be typed in 12 pt font/Times New Roman
* The paper must be double spaced
* You must have a minimum of five reputable sources (scholarly academic journals). Do not cite Wikipedia and opinion-based websites