

Psych 4910

General Style Points

Italicize book and journal titles. Do not use quotation marks and do not underline.

Every article, book or website you cite in your essay **and only those cited** should be listed in the reference list at the end of the essay.

In psychology, we do not use direct quotations unless the authors' specific words are critical to some point being made. A book report is a bit different, and you may use direct quotations, but keep them scarce. It is usually better to rephrase the quotation in your own words. If you do use a direct quotation, you must give the page reference.

Double space consistently throughout the essay including the title page and the references.

Don't use adverbs such as "additionally", "contrastingly", "interestingly" at the beginning of a sentence.

Miscellaneous

Do not connect two sentences with a comma; use a period, or semicolon if the two sentences are closely connected. You may use a comma when the sentences are **very** short; for example, "He bathed, he ate, he slept, and then he began work."

Books and experiments don't do anything. They don't discuss, argue or refute arguments. The authors discuss various topics or present arguments. Don't say that an inanimate object (a book or experiment) takes actions.

Whenever you make a comparison (using words like "bigger than" or "less than") you want to make clear exactly what two things are being compared.

Use a dictionary to check word meanings. A lot of people are using words incorrectly.

Numbers less than or equal to ten are written as words unless they are measurements.

Wordiness

Replace "a myriad of" with "many"
Replace "a majority of" with "most"

“As well as” and “in addition to” are used to introduce a clause. (E.g. In addition to washing the dishes, she wiped the counters, put out the garbage, swept the floor, and fed the cat.) In most places, you should replace “as well as” or “in addition to” by “and”.

A vast majority → most

Majority means 50% or more of the people involved.

Least amount of recall → lowest recall

In comparison to → than

“Relatable” is not a word.

Use, “first”, “second”, “third”, and “last”, not “firstly”, “secondly” etc.

(A slash is permissible when you give the reference for a website.) A slash is not a punctuation mark; use the word “or” or “and” as appropriate.

Refer to authors or researchers by their last (family) names. Don’t use titles.

Word Pairs: What is the difference in the meaning of the two words in each pair?

authoritarian - authoritative

effect vs. affect

imply vs. infer

its vs it’s

deduct vs deduce

immature vs premature

uninterested vs. disinterested

manner vs manor

ensure vs. reassure

novel = work of fiction

rates of recall vs. levels of recall, likelihood of recall

illicit vs. elicit

wreck vs. wreak

critic vs critique

stationary vs. stationery

complimentary vs complementary

“Myself” is reflexive; e.g. I saw myself in the mirror.

Never say or write, “**Myself** and a friend went to a movie.” “My friend and I went to a movie” is correct.

Never say or write, “He saw John and myself at the movie.”

Each other vs. one another: “Each other” refers to two people; “one another” refers to more than two people.

Lay = intransitive verb, needs no direct object. I lay down and fell asleep. (Past tense)

Lay = transitive verb, to put something down. Lay the book on the desk.
Lie = to tell untruth,
Lie down = opposite of stand up

Majority = refers to count nouns, not to mass nouns
A majority of eligible voters actually cast ballots in the election.
Not: "the majority of mental illness" or "the majority of therapy"
"The majority of" can usually be replaced by "most" → Most mental illnesses...
Most can be used with both count and mass nouns.

Majority = refers to count nouns, not to mass nouns
A majority of eligible voters actually cast ballots in the election.
Not: "the majority of mental illness" or "the majority of therapy"
"The majority of" can usually be replaced by "most" → Most mental illnesses...
Most can be used with both count and mass nouns.

Spelling: sep**a**rate not seperate