

PSY 458 Learning
GUIDELINES FOR PAPER

Due Date: December 3

The paper will be 4-6 pages in length (DO NOT EXCEED 6 PAGES), typed, double spaced, 12-point font. It will be focused on two topics that you will choose from the list below. Include a title page with your name, title of paper, course, and date. Include a copy of the first 2 pages of each of the references you cite (excluding the text if that is one of your references), attached to your paper.

Choose 2 of the following behaviors and, using content (learning theories) covered in the course (either from lecture or the text, or both), write a 4-6 page paper explaining each of the two phenomena you selected. You may use different (or the same) learning theories for each if it is relevant. Also include learning theories that you believe do NOT sufficiently or adequately explain the phenomenon or behavior. Cite a minimum of three references for *each* of the topics selected from professional journals or edited books. Your textbook can be one of the references used for each of the topics. By "reference," I do not mean that you should use one of the references cited by your textbook without you actually reading the referenced article. A reference cited in a paper should be one that you have actually read. A reference page should be attached at the end that lists the references according to APA style. You may divide the paper into sections according to the topic, or you may combine the two topics without apparent distinct sections.

Choose two of the following topics:

- Violence in schools (similar to the Columbine shooting)
- Gambling
- Suicide
- Smoking
- Freud's defense mechanisms (e.g. denial, repression, projection)
- Motor learning (tennis, basketball, typing)
- The cognitive bias of 'confirmation bias'
- Socially withdrawn children