

HLTH 105: Personal and Community Health

Research Paper Instructions & Rubric

DRAFT DUE 11.22.2017 @ 8:30am in class & via Blackboard
FINAL DRAFT DUE 11.29.2017 via Blackboard by 11:59pm

Purpose: The purpose of the research paper is to explore in more depth one topic we cover in class. Keep in mind that if you select a topic we cover later in the semester (e.g., cancer) then you will need to work ahead. One goal of the paper is that you learn about the causes and consequences of a particular topic from class. The motivation for and enactment of certain health behaviors and decisions have causes and consequences, too, so your topic can include an outright disease/condition such as cancer and diabetes, but can also include health care decisions such as practicing safer sex practices or deciding to vaccinate one's children. Therefore, the assignment follows the social ecological model wherein your topic can be at the cellular level, or your topic can be at the policy/global level. Your paper will include, at a minimum, an introduction, a causes section, a consequences section, and a conclusion. Those major sections can, but do not need to, include subsections. The paper should be 4-6 pages excluding the cover and reference pages. You will need to gather eight (8) peer-reviewed research studies published within the last five years. You can have more than eight sources and any additional sources can have any publication date.

Requirements:

1. Select an appropriate topic. If you have questions about your topic please discuss your concerns with me. Some topics might be too broad. For example, nutrition covers many topics so you might narrow your research to a particular eating style, agricultural practice, or counseling/motivational strategies.
2. Conduct research on the topic. Find a minimum of eight peer-reviewed research studies published within the last five years. More than eight sources can be included. Sources beyond the required eight can have any publication date.
3. Complete the research summary chart provided in Bb. The chart will ask for: author(s); publication year; article title; journal name, issue, volume, and pages; digital object identifier (doi); type of study; major findings; and strengths and limitations.
4. Summarize and synthesize your findings. Summarizing your findings involves describing the major findings from your research. Synthesizing the results involves combing the findings into major themes that seem to agree or disagree (not all research concur with each other!). So, you are combining your findings and blending them together in a 4-6 page paper.
 - a. Cover page: use the template provided in Bb for your cover page. Change the red text to black text and provide the appropriate information.
 - b. Introduction: the introduction section of the research paper should inform the reader about your topic. What is the topic and why is it important? You might include, if appropriate, data such as prevalence, incidence, morbidity, and mortality rates. You might include historical developments that have led to a problematic or beneficial situation. End the introduction with a thesis statement that you will back up in the body of the paper. The introduction should contain citations, but perhaps not as many as the body. This section will be about .75 to 1.5 pages long.

- c. Body: the body of your paper will contain two major sections: causes and consequences. The causes section should detail what led to the situation you described in the introduction. For example, if you introduce the recent rise in antibiotic resistant bacteria, you should find research that details the cause (e.g., overuse of antibiotics). If you introduce a positive topic such as a decline in teen pregnancy, you include causes, too (public health interventions, etc). The consequences section will highlight research demonstrating negative and/or positive outcomes that result from the causes. Both the causes and consequences sections can, but do not need to, include subsections. For example, if you find four studies that each highlight different causes, it might help the organization of the paper if you discuss each cause in a separate subsection. The body of the paper will be 3-4 pages long.
- d. Conclusion: the conclusion of the paper will remind the reader of your key points. It is important not to use the same exact words here. Paraphrase! You should also include thoughts about the need for future research or interventions to improve personal and/or community health. Be sure to end the paper strong by reminding the reader of both the importance of the topic and any consequences of inaction. The conclusion will be .5-1 page long.
- e. References: the references page will be in American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition style. See www.owl.purdue.edu for help with APA style.

CRITERION	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Cover page	No cover page	Cover page provided	Meets expectations and includes a “catchy” and appropriate title
Introduction	Lacks organization and/or contains insufficient background facts regarding the topic, or data provided is outdated and/or irrelevant, or insufficient writing quality	Demonstrates adequate organization and contains sufficient data to support the importance of the topic. Provides contemporary and relevant data. Adequate writing quality	Meets expectations and demonstrates exceptional writing quality (grammar, spelling, conciseness, etc.)
Thesis statement	No thesis or unclear thesis provided	Clear thesis statement. Perhaps too broad, unfocused, or not defensible	Meets expectations and clear, concise, and defensible thesis statement
Body: causes	Section lacks organization and/or outdated or irrelevant causes, or insufficient number of citations, or insufficient writing quality	Logical and coherent section organization. Adequate level of citations. Adequate writing quality. Causes are relevant to the introduction and thesis statement	Meets expectations and demonstrates exceptional writing quality (grammar, spelling, conciseness, etc.)
Body: consequences	Section lacks organization and/or outdated or irrelevant consequences (e.g., not related to causes), or insufficient number of citations, or insufficient writing quality	Section organization is logical and coherent. Adequate level of citations. Adequate writing quality. Consequences are relevant to the introduction, thesis statement, causes	Meets expectations and demonstrates exceptional writing quality (grammar, spelling, conciseness, etc.)
Conclusion	Conclusion lacks clarity and/or cohesiveness, or does not discuss any future recommendations or introduces new facts not discussed in the introduction and/or body	Nicely summarizes the key points of the paper. Makes links to past research and addresses future needs and/or recommendations. Ends in a memorable way	Meets expectations and demonstrates exceptional writing style (grammar, spelling, conciseness, etc.) and higher degree of insightfulness regarding future needs and/or recommendations (e.g., states more than the obvious “more research is necessary...”)
References	No references provided, or fewer than eight peer-reviewed sources published within the last five years, or not even close to APA style	Appropriate number of references. Major or many minor APA errors are present	Meets expectations and few APA errors
Research chart	Not completed or not fully completed or sufficient detail	Completed and adequate	Meets expectations and demonstrates exceptional detail