

**PSY 290**  
**Introduction to Research Methods**  
**Paper Directions and Rubric**

Thought Paper Directions, Page 1

Thought Paper Topics, Page 2-3

Thought Paper Rubric, Page 4

Directions:

This class counts as a General Education Writing Intensive (WI) course. Three papers are due in this course. Your paper is required to be:

- Typed
- 12-point font
- Double-spaced
- Have a minimum of 1,000 Words (please do not exceed 1,250 words)
- Follow either MLA or APA formatting
- Have 2 different scholarly sources
- Saved .doc, .docx, or .rtf format
- Submitted it to safe assign via Blackboard.

Tips for Success on Assignments

- Ask questions if you are unclear on a particular topic or assignment. I am happy to answer your questions!
- Select the paper option that interests you! It is easier to write about something you care about and that is relevant in your own life.
- Pay attention to the grading rubric that I will be using to evaluate your paper.
- If you struggle with grammar or spelling, utilize the AWC Student Success Center.
  - Writing Center Location: SC Building AWC Main Campus
  - Writing Center Phone Number: 928-317-6171
  - Writing Center URL:  
[http://www.azwestern.edu/learning\\_services/learning\\_support\\_services/student\\_success\\_center/writing\\_center.html](http://www.azwestern.edu/learning_services/learning_support_services/student_success_center/writing_center.html).
- Helpful links: <http://www.chompchomp.com/> and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

Paper Topics:

You will develop your three papers based on the “steps in the research process” (Neuman, 2009, p. 21). You will progressively complete your final paper.

Paper 1

Here is what you’ll include within your first paper:

- 1) Topic Selection:
  - a. Tell the reader what your topic choice is.
- 2) Topic Selection Background:
  - a. Basic information regarding your study.
  - b. Discuss the setting for your study.
  - c. Is your study applied or basic research? Briefly explain.
  - d. Is your study exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, evaluation? Briefly explain.
  - e. Is your study qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods? Briefly explain.
- 3) Focus question(s)/Research Question(s):
  - a. Simply introduce and state your question(s).
- 4) Literature Review:
  - a. Explain your literature topics.
  - b. Explain how the literature relates to your topic.
  - c. The review of literature can be in annotated form, but it is not required.
- 5) Theoretical Conceptualization:
  - a. Explain theory.
  - b. Explain how the theory relates to your topic.

Paper 2

Here is what you’ll include within your second paper:

- 1) Restate your topic and research question.
- 2) Ethical Concerns:
  - a. Why is your study ethical?
- 3) Design Study:
  - a. Is your study applied or basic research? Clearly explain.
  - b. Is your study exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, evaluation? Clearly explain.
  - c. Is your study qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods? Clearly explain.
- 4) Sampling Procedures”
  - a. What are your sampling procedures?
  - b. Which sampling will you use? Is it random or nonrandom?
  - c. Describe your population.
  - d. Describe your desired sample.
- 5) Data Collection
  - a. Which data collection instrumentation will use for your study?
  - b. How will you demonstrate reliability and validity?
  - c. Will you conduct a pilot test?
  - d. How do you plan to measure your data collection?
  - e. How will you analyze data?

### Paper 3

Here is what you'll include within your third paper:

- 1) You will include revised content from papers 1 and 2.
- 2) Analyze Data:
  - a. How did you collect your data?
  - b. Where there any data collection concerns?
  - c. How did you analyze data?
  - d. What type of test did you run in SPSS?
- 3) Interpret Data:
  - a. State yielded data (mean, mode, median, percentiles, standard deviation, t-test, z-score, tables, graphs, etc.)
  - b. Analyze levels of statistical significance.
  - c. What does your mean? Did you data answer your research question?
  - d. State any limitations.
  - e. Make recommendations for future.

Assignment Grading Rubric

<b>150 points Possible</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Answers Assigned Questions, Follows Directions, and Organization</b>	Answers all questions in depth. Follows the directions completely (12-point font, Double-spaced, minimum of 1,000 Words, MLA or APA formatting, 2 sources, Submitted it to safe assign via Blackboard). Includes clear organization. Writing includes: introduction and thesis, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.	Answers all questions with some depth. Follows the directions (12-point font, Double-spaced, minimum of 1,000 Words, MLA or APA formatting, 2 sources, Submitted it to safe assign via Blackboard) with minor error. Includes clear organization. Writing includes: introduction and thesis, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.	Answers all questions with partial depth. Partially follows the directions. Body of paper does not include 1,000 words. Partial clarity and organization. Writing includes: introduction and thesis, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.	Answers minimal questions. Minimally follows the directions. Body of paper does not include 1,000 words. Is somewhat clear and organized. Writing does not include clear: introduction and thesis, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.	Does not answer all questions. Does not follow directions. Is not clear or organized. Does not include an introduction and thesis, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
<b>Follows MLA or APA Format</b>	Writing appropriately follows either MLA or APA formatting including 2 cited sources and a Works Cited/Reference page.	Writing appropriately follows either MLA or APA formatting including 2 cited sources and a Works Cited/Reference page with minor error.	Writing somewhat follows either MLA or APA formatting including 2 cited sources and a Works Cited/Reference page.	Writing demonstrates little or no demonstration of MLA or APA formatting. Does not have 2 cited sources nor a Works Cited/Reference page.	Writing does not follow either MLA or APA formatting. Does not have 2 cited sources nor a Works Cited/Reference page.
<b>Analysis</b>	Demonstrates original thinking and depth of analysis	Demonstrates depth of analysis	Demonstrates partial depth of analysis	Demonstrates little or no depth of analysis	Demonstrates no depth of analysis
<b>Comprehension</b>	Demonstrates depth of comprehension of material used	Demonstrates comprehension of material used	Demonstrates partial comprehension of material used	Demonstrates little comprehension of material used	Demonstrates no comprehension of material used
<b>Grammar, spelling &amp; punctuation</b>	Shows high proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Shows adequate proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Shows inconsistent proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Shows lack of proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Shows persistent, serious lack of proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation