**Decision Point Requirements for Psychological Science**

*Please contact Dr. Ritchey (*[*karitchey@bsu.edu*](mailto:karitchey@bsu.edu)*)*

*with any questions regarding your Psychological Science teaching requirements.*

The National Council for the Social Studies requires that students who are planning to teach to meet five core standards. (<https://www.socialstudies.org/sites/default/files/images/ncss_socialstudiesteacherstandards-april2017-prepublication.pdf>)

Standard 1. Content Knowledge: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of social studies disciplines. Candidates are knowledgeable of disciplinary concepts, facts, and tools; structures of inquiry; and forms of representation.

Standard 2. Application of Content Through Planning: Candidates plan learning sequences that leverage social studies knowledge and literacies, technology, and theory and research to support the civic competence of learners.

Standard 3. Design and Implementation of Instruction and Assessment: Candidates design and implement instruction and authentic assessments, informed by data literacy and learner self-assessment, that promote civic competence.

Standard 4. Social Studies Learners and Learning: Candidates use knowledge of learners to plan and implement relevant and responsive pedagogy, create collaborative and interdisciplinary learning environments, and prepare learners to be informed advocates for an inclusive and equitable society.

Standard 5. Professional Responsibility and Informed Action: Candidates reflect and expand upon their social studies knowledge, inquiry skills, and civic dispositions to advance social justice and promote human rights through informed action in schools and/or communities.

To help you meet these standards, the Department of Psychological Science asks that you complete the following assignments:

**Transition Point 1 Essay**

**When should I submit this essay?**

This essay should be completed in the first half of the semester prior to the one in which you plan to take SS 350. For example, if you want to take SS 350 in the spring, you would submit your DP1 essay in the first half the preceding fall semester. This will allow me (Dr. Ritchey) to evaluate your essay and provide feedback, and give you time to make any corrections and to get your essay approved by the time you register for SS 350 in the following semester.

**What do I write for this essay?**

This essay is intended to address Standard 1. Please address (in approximately 750 words) the following points:

1. What is the definition of psychology?
2. Identify at least five central concepts you have learned about in your psychology courses so far. A central concept might be a broad topic area within psychology, such as motivation, personality, etc., but it can also be more general theme that you see bridging across your courses, such as the nature vs. nurture debate, the interrelation between psychology and other disciplines, psychology’s role in the world, and/or the role of diversity in psychology, etc. For each central concept,
3. define what it means (e.g., What does the topic of motivation mean?)
4. explain why it is important to (or ‘central’ to) psychology.
5. Briefly explain the major tools of inquiry that are used in psychology. Tools of inquiry refer to the methods psychologists use to gather and evaluate information. (You might think about the various types of studies covered in the Research Methods chapter of your Intro Psych text and/or the types of studies you have learned about in your psychology courses.)

**How do I format the essay?**

1. Essays should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font.

2. Essays can be formatted using either APA for MLA standards, as long as your references are clearly cited and a reference page or bibliography is included. The Purdue Owl website is useful for learning the basics of APA, (<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html>) and this is a useful website for citing lectures, lecture notes, etc. in APA format: <https://www.columbiacollege.ca/library>.

3. You do not need to include a separate title page.

**How do I submit my essay?**

You should submit your essay by emailing it as an attachment to Dr. Ritchey at

[karitchey@bsu.edu](mailto:karitchey@bsu.edu) .

**How will my essay be evaluated?** Here is the Rubric for Decision Point 1:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Proficient | Basic | Unsatisfactory |
| Disciplinary  Ways of Thinking/ | \*A correct, thorough definition of psychology that reflects all aspects of the field. \*Five or more central concepts are defined; definitions are thorough. \*Central concepts are correctly defined; definitions are thorough | \*Correct definition of psychology; may be simple or somewhat incomplete \*Five or more central concepts are defined; definitions may be simple or somewhat incomplete \*Central concepts are correctly defined; definitions may be simple or somewhat incomplete | \*Incorrect or missing definition of psychology \* Fewer than five central concepts are defined  \*Any of the central concepts are incorrectly defined |
| Research Methods/ Tools of Inquiry | \*All major tools of inquiry are listed. \*Tools of inquiry are correctly defined; definitions are thorough. | \*All major tools of inquiry are listed. \*Tools of inquiry are correctly defined; definitions may be simple or somewhat incomplete | \*Any major tool of inquiry is not listed. \*A tool of inquiry is incorrectly defined. |
| Professionalism | \*Essay is submitted by the deadline  \*Writing is free of typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay follows APA or MLA format. \*All sources are cited \*All sources are appropriate (e.g., sources are reasonably recent; no reference to personal opinions; all sources are reliable. | \*Essay is submitted by the deadline \*Writing is mostly free of significant typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay mostly follows APA or MLA format. \*Most or all sources are cited  \*Most or all sources are appropriate (e.g., sources are mostly recent; reliance on own opinion is minimal; sources are mostly reliable.) | \*Essay is submitted past the deadline \*Writing contains multiple typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay contains multiple violations of APA or MLA format.  \*Most or all sources are not cited \*Most or all sources are inappropriate (e.g., sources are significantly out of date; relies on own opinion; sources are unreliable) |

**Decision Point 2 Essay**

**When should I submit this essay?**

This essay should be completed in the first half of the semester prior to the one in which you plan to student teach. For example, if you want to student teach in the spring, you would submit your DP2 essay in the first half the preceding fall semester. This will allow me (Dr. Ritchey) to evaluate your essay and provide feedback, and give you time to make any corrections and to get your essay approved by the time you register for student teaching the following semester.

**What do I write for this essay?**

This essay is intended to address Standard 5. Write an essay (approximately 750 words) addressing the following points:

1. Briefly explain a psychological study that addresses some aspect of social justice and/or human rights. The study may do this directly (for example, by trying to identify and eliminate factors that contribute to prejudicial attitudes) or indirectly (for example, by including a diverse population in its subject pool to test whether a psychological phenomenon affects people differently). This study may be one that you used in a prior class. If you have trouble locating an appropriate article, let me know. In your explanation you should report:
2. The main question being posed by the study.
3. How the authors studied this question. (For example, if they performed an experiment, what were there independent and dependent variables? If they performed a correlational study, what factors were measured, and how?)
4. The main conclusion(s) the authors drew from the study.
5. Identify at least one way in which you could advance social justice and/or advance human rights in your school and/or community. These methods could refer to actions you will take as a teacher (e.g., How might you address these topics in your classroom and/or with any school clubs you mentor?) as a researcher (e.g., Might you collect data on an issue similar to the article you read?) and/or as a community member.

**How do I format the essay?**

1. Essays should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font.

2. Essays can be formatted using either APA for MLA standards, as long as your references are clearly cited and a reference page or bibliography is included. The Purdue Owl website is useful for learning the basics of APA, (<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html>) and this is a useful website for citing lectures, lecture notes, etc. in APA format: <https://www.columbiacollege.ca/library>.

3. You do not need to include a separate title page.

**How do I submit my essay?**

You should submit your essay by emailing it as an attachment to Dr. Ritchey at

[karitchey@bsu.edu](mailto:karitchey@bsu.edu) .

**How will my essay be evaluated?** Here the rubric for Decision Point 2 Essay:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Proficient | Basic | Unsatisfactory |
| Reflect on psychological science knowledge, inquiry skills, and civic dispositions | \*The main question of the study is clearly and accurately explained. \*The study’s method is clearly and/or accurately explained. \*The main conclusions of the study are clearly and/or accurately explained | \*The main question of the study is somewhat clearly and accurately explained. \*The study’s method is somewhat clearly and/or accurately explained. \*The main conclusions of the study are somewhat clearly and/or accurately explained. | \*The main question of the study is not clearly and/or accurately explained. \*The study’s methods is not clearly and/or accurately explained. \*The main conclusions of the study are not clearly and/or accurately explained. |
| Expand on  psychological science civic dispositions | \*At least one method of advancing social justice and/or human rights is proposed. \*Method of advancing social justice and/or human rights is feasible and applicable to the student. | \*At least one method of advancing social justice and/or human rights is proposed. \*Method of advancing social justice and/or human rights is somewhat feasible and applicable to the student. | \*No method of advancing social justice and/or human rights is proposed. \*Methods of advancing social justice and/or human rights are not feasible or applicable to the student. |
| Professionalism | \*Essay is submitted by the deadline \*Writing is free of typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay follows APA or. MLA format. \*All sources are cited \*All sources are appropriate (e.g., sources are reasonably recent; no reference to personal opinions; all sources are reliable. | \*Essay is submitted by the deadline \*Writing is mostly free of significant typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay mostly follows APA or MLA format. \*Most or all sources are cited \*Most or all sources are appropriate (e.g., sources are mostly recent; reliance on own opinion is minimal; sources are mostly reliable.) | \*Essay is submitted past the deadline \*Writing contains multiple typing errors and/or grammar mistakes. \*Essay contains multiple violations of APA or MLA format.  \*Most or all sources are not cited \*Most or all sources are inappropriate (e.g., sources are significantly out of date; relies on own opinion; sources are unreliable) |