# A Scoring Guide for Evaluating Student Writing in the Field of Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIT #1: CONTENT</th>
<th>Inadequate (Fails to meet standard)</th>
<th>Essential (Generally meets standard)</th>
<th>Accomplished (Meets standard)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRAIT #2: ORGANIZATION/COMMUNICATION</td>
<td>Requires major editing, further research, or conceptual work.</td>
<td>Requires minor editing, further research, or conceptual work.</td>
<td>Excellent writing that shows good editing, research, and conceptual work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIT #3: FORMAT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## TRAIT #1: CONTENT

The writer...

- a) appropriately addresses the content requirements of the assignment
- b) delineates the topic so that it is appropriately focused and manageable
- c) uses relevant resources appropriate to the assignment
- d) presents relevant issues in reviewing research or constructing and supporting a thesis
- e) shows care and accuracy in the presentation of ideas
- f) provides examples, illustrations, or evidences to support and enhance arguments
- g) demonstrates depth of knowledge and understanding of the ideas, theories, or research presented
- h) evidences critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) as appropriate to the assignment

## TRAIT #2: ORGANIZATION/COMMUNICATION

The writer...

- a) provides an inviting introduction and a satisfying conclusion
- b) uses thoughtful transitions and links to enhance the flow of ideas
- c) sequences paragraphs in a logical way to enhance the flow of ideas
- d) uses correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- e) varies sentence structure and word choice
- f) uses his or her own words and voice (the writing neither mimics nor closely resembles the source material)
- g) avoids list-like or cut-and-paste writing
- h) provides clear explanations of terms and concepts that enhance understanding for the reader/audience
- i) creates a title that clearly communicates the intended message
- j) uses quotations rarely and only when absolutely necessary to the presentation

## TRAIT #3: FORMAT

The writer...

- a) uses the surface elements of APA format required by the instructor
- b) appropriately includes and places citations in the text
- c) correctly formats text citations
- d) includes a complete, accurate, and correctly formatted reference list