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

	Inadequate (Fails to meet standard) Requires major editing, further research, or conceptual work.	Essential (Generally meets standard) Requires minor editing, further research, or conceptual work.	Accomplished (Meets standard) Excellent writing that shows good editing, research, and conceptual work.
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			