

Writing Standards for Psychology Courses

Clarion University

For any Psychology courses where writing assignments are required, these writing standards will serve as the minimum that Psychology professors expect. Each professor may have additional standards depending on the level of the course and the type of assignment. Please note that there are additional standards for writing intensive courses.

General Education flags noted after corresponding course numbers are:

(V) = first year values flag

(Q) = quantitative flag

(S) = second values flag

(W) = writing intensive flag

Level 1: Courses with no prerequisites

PSY 125/225 (V), 211, 220, 228, 253, 350, 453

Requirement at this level: Writing Essays

Basic Expectations:

- Correct spelling
- Complete sentences
- Correct punctuation
- Nonbiased language
- Correct citation of personal communications
- Avoidance of plagiarism
- Thesis → supporting statements → conclusion

Recommendation: Psychology majors use “How to Write Psychology Papers” book selected by department faculty

Level 2: Courses at the 200- and 300-levels with one or two prerequisites

PSY 230 (Q), 240 (W), 251 & 252, 260, 280, 340, 352, 354 (S), 355, 360, 393

Basic Expectations:

- Correct spelling
- Complete sentences
- Correct punctuation
- Nonbiased language
- Correct citation of personal communications
- Avoidance of plagiarism
- Thesis → supporting statements → conclusion

Recommendation: Psychology majors use “How to Write Psychology Papers” book selected by department faculty

Requirement at this level: Writing with Sources

Additional Expectations:

- Use at least 1-2 sources
- Correct paraphrasing and quoting

