**So . . . you have to write a psychology paper**

**Types of Papers in Psychology**

* Research Proposal
  1. Format depends on course—ask instructor for special instructions
  2. Two basic sections: introduction and methods
* Research Report
  1. Summarize accurately and concisely the account of the research
* Literature Review
  1. Provide an overview of research questions that have or have not been asked in studies and set the context for other research
  2. Determine alternative ways of organizing broad areas of study
* Reaction Paper
  1. Analyze the work written by someone else
  2. Provide a brief synopsis of book or article
  3. Present arguments and evidence that justify your viewpoint

**Structure**

* Create unified paragraphs wherein the ideas presented in each sentence relate to the ones before and after it.
* Use transitions to connect ideas within the paragraph or paper
* Choose the proper tense—most papers should be written in past tense since the research has already been completed
  1. Discussions of prior research, procedures, or statements of results are in the past tense
  2. Certain statements within the paper may be in the present tense – general findings, definitions of well defined theory, reference tables
* Use active voice and write in third person
* Select the correct singular/plural forms

***Singular*** ***Plural***

criterion criteria

phenomenon phenomena

apparatus apparatus or

apparatuses

stimulus stimuli

analysis analyses

datum data

appendix appendixes or

appendices

* Avoid sexist language
* All numbers 10 and above should be expressed in Arabic figures (11); numbers less than 10 are expressed in words

1. Never begin a sentence with an Arabic number—express the number in words
2. Use numbers in text for ages and dates
3. Express common fractions in words

* Use proper APA format—look at the sample in the APA manual and make the paper look exactly like the sample