

General Education Outcome - Critical Thinking

Outcome: The student will demonstrate the ability to think critically: to analyze, critique, and draw reasoned conclusions.

Subcomponents:

- Analyze evidence, position statements, or data thoroughly, in context, and without bias before reaching a conclusion or stating a position.
- Develop reasoned conclusions from that analysis.
- Support the conclusion or position logically and communicate that support effectively.

Sample artifacts:

- **Critique a Peer Reviewed Journal Article (Health Professions):**

A critique is a short paper (2-3 pages typed) about a journal article that you have read. For this assignment, you are required to complete one critique over an article from a peer reviewed journal.

Your critique must include the following components:

1. Summary of 3-5 main points of article paired with one to two examples or pieces of data including any results and/or new information that was presented.
2. Analysis of the science behind the article including methodology (if the methodology is poor, discuss how to make it better).
3. Discuss your personal response or two new things you learned or think are most interesting.
4. What is the importance or application of this article to your field of study (make conceptual ties in this section to previous learning experiences).

- **Social Experience Simulations: Social Norms and Prosocial Behaviors (Social Psychology)**

You will work in pairs or groups of three (3) for this assignment. You are to select one of the three social experience simulations as described below. You and your partner/group will conduct the simulation and take notes on the experience.

Each group member will then write their own paper analyzing the experience. (*Note: this is not a group paper!) For specific information to be included in the paper- please review the Social Experience Simulation Grading Rubric.

Toward the end of the semester your group will then present an overview of the experience to the class. Be prepared to answer questions about the experience. You will turn in your individual papers and all observation notes on the day of the presentation.

****You will be taking part as both the actor and observer for the experience, so your paper will cover your observations from both points of view.****

Suggestions for observation notes: location of experience, demographics of public, reaction of the public, personal thoughts and feelings about participating in the simulation (before and after), physical sensations while participating/observing, etc.

- **Ethical Article Summary (Health Professions):**

The purposes of the article summary are to critically evaluate and synthesize the content of peer reviewed journal articles, use APA formatting in writing, and offer an opinion on the content of the article by defending, rejecting and/or reflecting on the contents.

Assignment: Students will locate, read and summarize a peer reviewed journal article. The written summary will include a detailed overview of the main issues/content. In addition, students will provide a personal reflection and may disagree or agree with the content of the article. The personal reflection will demonstrate engagement with the ethical issue(s) and show growth in student's knowledge of class content. The student will draw upon class discussion and/or readings to synthesize and expand on their knowledge.

Students will show excellent usage of Standard English (grammar, vocabulary, etc.) The format of the paper must be APA style with 1 inch margins, double spaced and size 12 Font (Times New Romans, Calibri, or Arial.) The paper should be at least 500 words in length.

- **Implicit Association Test, Paper Assignment Guidelines (Social Psychology)**

The purpose of this assignment is to examine implicit attitudes on both an individual and societal level.

After reading *Chapter 4: Behavior and Attitudes* you will access the Implicit Association Test (IAT Corp., 2012) online and select at least one test to complete. The Implicit Association Test is "a computer-driven assessment of implicit attitudes" (Myers, 2012).

Following receipt and review of the results you will answer the following questions:

What is your understanding of implicit attitudes?

How are implicit attitudes related to behavior?

How did you feel as you were taking the IAT?

Was the process interesting? Did it help you understand your attitudes towards the specified group or topic?

Were the results of the IAT close to what you expected? If not, why do you think they may have differed?

What are the criticisms or concerns regarding using the IAT as a measure of the impact of implicit attitudes on behavior?

Don't forget to cite your sources! As always- let me know if you have questions!

- **Use laboratory data to identify an unknown acid. (General Chemistry II)**

Using the data given in the scenario and the attached titration curve, identify the unknown acid from the table of possible unknowns on the back of the sheet and write a conclusion paragraph that identifies your unknown acid and clearly explains how you used your data and results to identify the compound. The paragraph should repeat important results and data for your unknown and discuss how you excluded the other possible compounds.