

# APS Interest Group on Psychology Education

## Resource Material Submission – Front Page Summary

<b>Title of Material</b>	<b>Debunking common psychological myth first year assessment</b>
<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Frances Martin</b>
<b>Description/Aim</b>	<b>A report designed to have students think critically about psychological myths that exist, and provide reasoning as to why they may still exist in society.</b>
<b>Benefits of Resource</b>	Think critically about psychology myths. Develop an ability to refute incorrect scientific claims, through knowledge of their origin and evidence against them.
<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	First year project. Could be used at higher levels
<b>Approximate Duration</b>	
<b>Primary Content/ Process Topic</b>	Psychological literacy
<b>Other Categories</b>	Research methods, critical thinking
<b>Intended student level</b> <i>(e.g. Secondary, Undergraduate Introductory, Undergraduate 4<sup>th</sup> Yr/ Honours, Post-graduate)</i>	Undergraduate – Introductory
<b>Type of Material</b> <i>(e.g. classroom materials, assessment, lectures, teaching tips, articles, syllabi, simulated learning environments.)</i>	Assignment – essay
<b>Format of Material</b>	Pdf file
<b>Further Information Contact</b> <i>(email only)</i>	<a href="mailto:Frances.Martin@newcastle.edu.au">Frances.Martin@newcastle.edu.au</a>
<b>Review Requested</b> <i>(Nb: A 'Yes' response to this category indicates that you would like feedback/comments on the materials via email.)</i>	Yes
<b>Evaluative Data Included</b> <i>(E.g. Student evaluation, comments etc.)</i>	No

# MYTH ASSIGNMENT 3 – ESSAY

## OVERVIEW

For this assessment task you are required to write a brief (**five page**) critical evaluation of a popular psychology myth. Full details regarding the assignment are detailed below.

## REQUIREMENTS

Assume that your target audience is scientists who have general expertise but do not have specialized expertise in the area of your myth.

## DUE DATE:

The due date for this assignment is .....

## THE TASK

In this assignment you will be a myth buster. The task for this assignment is to write an essay which critically evaluates the evidence both for and against one popular psychology myth and then present an argument as to why this myth has persisted. Remember to base your argument on the evidence you have presented.

## NOTE:

1. **You may choose only ONE myth.**

### ALTERNATIVELY YOU COULD CONSTRAIN THE MYTHS

**You may choose only ONE myth from the following list of myths**

- a. **People with dyslexia are just lazy**
  - b. **Subliminal messages can persuade people to purchase products.**
  - c. **Human memory works like a tape-recorder or video camera and accurately records the events we've experienced.**
2. **You MUST have your myth approved by your tutor prior to commencing your essay.**
  3. **You must make up a title for your essay which must contain the name of your myth.**
  4. **You must include an abstract which should be no more than 150 words**
  5. **Formatting of your essay must conform to the requirements set out in Findlay (2009) [for title page particularly see page 112 (Note: you would insert your student number where Findlay suggests your name)]**

Note that there is no 'right' number of references to include. Your goal should be to find a balance that demonstrates thorough but selective investigation of the topic. Ensure all references used are relevant to your essay. Inclusion of references for the sake of references is undesirable and detracts from the cohesiveness of the essay.

Note that you are responsible for researching the literature to find references for your essay.

## **LIMITS**

Five page maximum which does not include the abstract, reference list or any tables or figures you may have included. The page limit does include all words in the body of the essay including in-text citations. If your essay is more than five pages, you will incur a penalty.

Assignments must be 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced with page margins all round at 2.54cms.

The essay should be individually written and must be within the page limit of five pages (it is not acceptable to use point form at any stage).

## **OVERALL UNIT MARK CONTRIBUTION**

This essay report contributes 25% to the overall mark for the unit.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Your essay will be assessed according to the following criteria.

1. The use of relevant, current, credible literature to write your essay and the integration of the literature to create a line of argument (2 criterion points).
  2. The logical structure and flow of ideas presented and demonstrated critical analysis of the literature (2 criterion points).
  3. The conciseness and clarity of your writing. Remember that grammar, spelling and sentence construction will contribute to the quality of your expression (1 criterion point).
  4. Adherence to APA conventions for formatting, citation and referencing and the presentation of others' ideas (1 criterion point).
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1. **The use of relevant, current, credible literature and integration:** This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay demonstrates knowledge and understanding of *the myth you have chosen*. The criterion will assess *integration* of information from multiple sources, the appropriateness of the *conclusions* derived from that information and the *interpretation* of the literature in the context of existing literature. (2 criterion points)
  2. **Logical structure and critical analysis:** This criterion assesses the degree to which there is a consistent and *logical flow* of concepts and ideas. The criterion will also assess the degree of demonstrated *critical analysis* of the literature. (2 criterion points)
  3. **Writing style and cohesiveness:** This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay demonstrates a professional, academic writing style. This includes clarity of writing and degree to which the writing style engages the reader. (1 criterion point)
  4. **Grammar, spelling, formatting:** This criterion assesses paragraph and sentence structure, accuracy of spelling, absence of typographical errors and adherence to APA formatting guidelines (refer to Findlay 2009). (1 criterion point)

## HOW YOUR GRADE IS DETERMINED

A grade (HD, DN, etc.) will be allocated to each criterion based on the extent to which that criterion is achieved. The criteria are weighted differently meaning that some criteria (those deemed most important) have a greater influence on the final grade than others. To allow for this, criteria 1 and 2 each count as two criterion units each, while criteria 3 and 4 each contribute one criterion unit. Thus, there are six criterion units in total that are used to determine your final grade.

***Determination of YOUR final grade will be guided by the following rubric.***

- HD** To be awarded an HD you must achieve HD on at least four of six criterion units and DN on the remaining criterion units.
- DN** To be awarded a DN you must achieve DN or higher on at least four criterion units and CR on the remaining criterion units.
- CR** To be awarded a CR you must achieve CR or higher on at least four criterion units and PP on at least one of the remaining criterion units.
- PP** To be awarded PP you must achieve PP or higher on at least three criterion units.
- NN** A grade of NN will be awarded if NN is achieved on four or more criterion units.

Assignment 3

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Criterion	NN	PP	CR	DN	HD
<p><b>1. Use of relevant, current, credible literature and integration:</b></p> <p>a. Extent to which the report makes use of current, credible, and relevant literature and demonstrates broad reading on the topic.</p> <p>b. Extent of <i>integration</i> of information, and the appropriateness of the empirical data used to support your arguments.</p> <p>(2 criterion points)</p>	<p>No attempt to integrate information from different sources (e.g., only a single source of information used).</p> <p>Empirical data are either absent or inappropriate (e.g., inconsistent with focus of paper).</p> <p>No references to literature provided, or references are inappropriate for an academic paper (e.g., magazine or newspaper articles, web sites, popular texts). No evidence of reading on the topic.</p>	<p>Minimal evidence of integration of information (e.g., largely summarises information from a single source).</p> <p>Minimally acceptable use of empirical data (e.g., focuses on only one type of data).</p> <p>Limited breadth and scope of references.</p> <p>Evidence of limited reading on the topic.</p>	<p>Some evidence of integration of information from multiple sources (e.g., summarises information, but across different myths)</p> <p>Acceptable, though limited, use of different types of empirical data.</p> <p>Acceptable breadth and scope of references.</p> <p>Good evidence of reading, but within a narrow range on the topic.</p>	<p>Good integration of information from multiple sources. (e.g., compares and/or contrasts different information on your myth).</p> <p>Good use of empirical data (e.g., uses a broad variety of data).</p> <p>Good breadth and scope of references.</p> <p>Good evidence of broad reading on the topic.</p>	<p>Excellent integration of information from multiple sources (e.g., compares and contrasts different information on your myth).</p> <p>Excellent use of empirical data (e.g., uses a broad variety of data).</p> <p>Excellent breadth and scope of current literature. Excellent evidence of broad reading on the topic.</p>
<p><b>2. Logical structure and critical analysis:</b></p> <p>a. The degree to which there is a consistent and logical flow of concepts and ideas.</p> <p>b. The degree of demonstrated critical analysis of the literature.</p> <p>(2 criterion points)</p>	<p>Severe lack of consistency and/or logical flow of ideas.</p> <p>No critical analysis of the literature</p>	<p>Consistency and logical flow of ideas is evident though sometimes strained.</p> <p>Evidence of some critical analysis of the literature</p>	<p>Acceptable consistency and logical flow of ideas.</p> <p>Acceptable critical analysis of the literature</p>	<p>Good consistency and logical flow of ideas.</p> <p>Good evidence of critical thinking</p>	<p>Excellent consistency and logical flow of ideas.</p> <p>Excellent to outstanding evidence of critical thinking</p>

<p>3. <b>Writing style and cohesiveness:</b> Extent to which the report demonstrates a professional, academic writing style. This includes the degree to which there is a consistent and logical flow of concepts and ideas, clarity of writing and degree to which the writing style engages the reader.</p> <p>(1 criterion point)</p>	<p>Colloquial, inconsistent or otherwise inappropriate writing style.</p> <p>Writing style is very distracting for the reader.</p>	<p>Consistent academic writing style, though somewhat 'mechanistic'.</p> <p>Writing style is acceptable though occasionally distracting for the reader.</p>	<p>Good use of academic writing style.</p> <p>Writing style is acceptable and occasionally engaging for the reader.</p>	<p>Skilled use of academic writing style with some evidence of individual style.</p> <p>Writing style is engaging and a pleasure to read.</p>	<p>Highly skilled use of academic writing style with clear evidence of individual style.</p> <p>Writing style is highly engaging and a pleasure to read.</p>
<p>4. <b>Grammar, spelling, formatting:</b> Grammatical appropriateness of paragraph and sentence structure, extent of spelling and typographical errors and adherence to APA formatting guidelines (refer to Findlay 2009).</p> <p>(1 criterion point)</p>	<p>Paragraph and/or sentence structure is often poor. Numerous spelling and typographical errors or errors that seriously detract from readability. There is no evidence of proof reading. Report does not adhere to accepted APA guidelines.</p>	<p>Occasional errors with paragraph and/or sentence structure. Some spelling and/or typographical errors, but these only minimally affect readability. (Take more care when proof reading). Report largely adheres to APA guidelines, though there are some moderate deviations.</p>	<p>Acceptable paragraph and/or sentence structure throughout. Few spelling or typographical errors that minimally affect readability. (Take more care when proof reading). Report largely adheres to APA guidelines, though there are some minor deviations.</p>	<p>Good paragraph and/or sentence structure throughout. At most, one or two spelling or typographical errors that do not affect readability. Report adheres to accepted APA guidelines.</p>	<p>Excellent paragraph and/or sentence structure throughout. No spelling or typographical errors noted. Report strictly adheres to accepted APA guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>					

Refer to Assignment #3 handout for grading algorithm (*How your grade is determined*).

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_