

Critical Thinking Journal Guidelines-Social Psychology-100% online students

Each student will create a journal in which you will record your observations of others' behavior, apparent attitudes, thoughts and feelings, as well as your own thoughts feelings and behaviors, **as they relate to social psychology.** The journal entry will note the observation/example, then explain how these observations are relevant or exemplify concepts in social psychology. Points will be earned for completed journal entries. Ten Journal entries are required and due on the date noted on the course syllabus.

The purpose of the assignment is to challenge yourself to begin to think like a social psychologist, to look at the world around you and ask yourself how social psychological analyses have the potential to help you better understand what you observe.

You will use the journal to record any observations of other people's behaviors, apparent attitudes and apparent feelings as well as your own thoughts, feelings and behaviors, and explain how these observations are relevant to social psychology, or HOW they exemplify social psychological concepts.

For example, you might go to a restaurant for lunch and take note of where people sit. Are people grouped by gender, race or group affiliation? Are physically attractive individuals surrounded by similarly attractive friends? Observe group dynamics at work. What do you notice about leadership styles? You might observe a friend behaving inconsistently with his/her attitude or realize that you have been rationalizing and justifying your own behavior. You might go to a party and note people's attempts at affiliation and intimacy. Or, you may observe the effects of alcohol on people's aggressiveness or deviant behavior. You may also use other media sources such as a television, movie, magazine or newspaper. For example, you can collect articles, editorials, cartoons, etc. and use this example to explain the concept from class or the readings. **Make sure you note: What does social psychological theory state about these topics? If so, what do they say?** Are your observations compared to or in contrast with what social psychological theory states? Explain why your observation is an illustration of that concept.

Specific format guidelines:

- **Format:** Online students submit electronically through Blackboard. See Blackboard for more detailed instructions on how to submit electronically.
- Grammar counts. Although the writing style may be somewhat informal, your paper should reflect college level writing in regard to sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation. Consult with the Tutoring, Learning & Computing (TLC) Lab for assistance with grammar, sentence structure, etc, if you need help.
- Journal entries will be evaluated by the degree to which the concepts from class and the text are integrated into what you observe or what you are feeling.
- You may write about your own experiences as they relate to the concepts in the text, presented in class discussions, videos, websites, homework assignments or current events. You do not need to complete outside research.