Social Psychology Paper Assignment #2

Due Tuesday, November 18

The topic for this paper can be selected from material covered in class beginning March 6 (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, SPA #3)

Papers must be uploaded to Blackboard and a hard copy should be submitted in class.

\*\*\*Font of the paper must be 12 pt Times New Roman\*\*

The purpose of writing this paper is to help you gain a deeper understanding of course material than might be obtained by simply reading a textbook. By writing about personal and concrete examples of social psychological principles, you should be able to interact with the ideas and gain personally relevant information. You are being asked to write this paper, not only to demonstrate that you can define a concept, but as a means of exploring why a concept matters and how it plays out in the real world. The key to doing well on this paper is to keep in mind the purposes of the assignment.

You should first select a specific incident or event in your life and explore it in terms of it psychological contents. This should be stated in a way that is specific enough to support in 4-6 pages. In selecting your example be sure to choose an experience that you can widely apply to some of the material we have covered in class. You will need to apply a minimum of 5 terms that we have covered in class or will cover in class up to the due date of the paper. The terms **must appear in bold** in the margin of your textbook. These are the most important terms introduced in the chapter. You should define the term as stated in the textbook being sure to use quotation marks and page numbers to cite each. Next you should explain the term more broadly in your own words. If it is helpful for you to include other sources in your explanation of the terms, you must cite the sources in the appropriate manner in the paper. This includes an attached reference page. The use of outside sources is allowed, but is not required.

After describing your personal example, you must then introduce terms that can help explain the situation. These concepts can explain the entire experience or just parts of the situation.

This rubric provides concrete guidelines to follow in order to both gain skills in expressing written ideas in an organized, logical way and to help you to do well on the assignments.

**Personal Example (20 points)- Cannot cover multiple events or days.**

* The example that you choose for this paper should be appropriate to and clearly logically linked to the terms selected.
* The example should involve **direct personal experiences**. Second hand observations or examples found in the media will not be accepted.

20: Example is personal, based on direct experiences. The way in which the example illustrate the terms is explicitly described (the reader does not need to fill in the blanks so to speak).

15-19: The appropriateness of the example is ambiguous – the example seem to fit the terms, but it requires guesswork on the part of the reader to figure out why an example was chosen. The paper may only do a mediocre job of tying the example back to the terms.

<10-15: Example is insufficiently developed (may be described in only a sentence or two). The examples may or may not be appropriate to the terms, but a significant amount of description that is needed to draw the connection is left out. The paper does a poor job of tying example back to the terms.

<10 Example is lacking or completely undeveloped. Example is irrelevant to the terms or is not tied back to the terms.

**Terms Description (30 points)**

* Your terms should be well-defined. First, define the terms as listed in the text. Be sure to include page number for reference.
* Each term should be extended beyond the book definition and put into the writer’s own words. You can be creative in how you do this; this may include the use of supplemental material, although it is not required.

25-30: Terms are adequately defined and

extended. Terms are presented in a context that makes their relevance and importance clear.

15-20: Terms may be stated but slightly too general or ambiguous. Description of the term may not make be sufficient to communicate relevance and importance of the personal example.

10-15: One of the above criteria is completely lacking or poor quality on one or two of the above criteria.

<10: Two or more of the above criteria are not met or extremely poor quality on one or more of these criteria.

**Example/Term match (10 points)**

* The structure of the paper should be clear and orderly. Make every sentence count – there should be a reason that statements and paragraphs are included (…filling space is not a good enough reason).
* Sufficiently develop the example and devote approximately equal amounts of coverage to the selected terms.

9-10: Sufficient amount of development in each section. Sections

are divided approximately equally.

6-8: One section may be inadequately developed or receive a

moderately disproportionately small amount of space.

< 6: Two sections are inadequately developed or receive a

disproportionately small amount of space.

**Length (10 points)**

* The paper should be 4-6 double-spaced pages. This is based on 12 pt Times New Roman font (creatively altering margins, line spaces, and/or fonts is not an advisable way to meet this requirement).

10: paper is 4-6- pages long

6: paper is 3.5 pages long OR paper is more than 7 pages

2: paper is 2 pages long

0: paper is less than or equal to 1.5 pages

**Grammar/ Writing Style (10 points)**

* Read your papers for typos and grammatical errors
* Set a little time aside to give your paper a final read-through before turning it in just to be sure that you do not unwittingly make common errors (e.g. run-on sentences, misspellings, capitalizations, citations if needed, etc.).
* The paper should flow smoothly – use good transitions to make it clear why one part of the paper leads to the next part.
* Make your words count – say what you mean! Make sure each sentence communicates precisely what you mean – don’t sacrifice clarity of writing style for impressive-sounding word choices if these words obscure the meaning.

Paper Grading Sheet

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Personal Example \_\_\_\_ / 20**

Comments (or page numbers of comments if comments are made on paper):

**Terms Total \_\_\_\_ / 30 (6 each)**

Each term must be explained using both book definition (complete with citations and explanation in the writers own words. Comments (or page numbers of comments if comments are made on paper): **3 pts book definition, 3 pts putting in own words**

**Terms Defined:** **1.** **\_\_\_\_ / 6 Terms Match : 1. \_\_\_\_ /4**

**2.** **\_\_\_\_ / 6 2. \_\_\_\_ /4**

**3.**  **\_\_\_\_ / 6 3. \_\_\_\_ /4**

**4.** **\_\_\_\_ / 6 4. \_\_\_\_ / 4**

**5.** **\_\_\_\_ / 6 5. \_\_\_\_ / 4**

**Example/Term Match (Appropriateness) \_\_\_\_ / 20**

Comments (or page numbers of comments if comments are made on paper):

**Format \_\_\_\_ / 10**

**Deduction: ½ pt per term if term not in bold, ½ pt if no quotation marks**, **1 pt if no page number, 2 pts no introductory statement, 2 pts no concluding statement, 2 pts no reference page (if needed)**

**Length \_\_\_\_ / 10**

**Grammar/Writing Style \_\_\_\_ / 10**

(These should be marked on the paper or page numbers of comments if comments are made on paper):