



PSY 614 Position Paper Guidelines and Grading Guide

Overview

A position paper will be used as one of your comprehensive assessments. Within the position paper, you will make value judgments about prevailing debates in the field of psychology. While you will be relying more on your personal viewpoints, you must substantiate claims with logic, reason, and evidence, as supported by scholarly research. In Module Five, a literature review will be completed as part of the framework in preparation for this assignment. Using resources identified in the literature review, you will craft your position paper due in Module Seven.

This assessment will assess your mastery with respect to the following course outcome:

- **PSY614.1** Defend a position on one of the significant debates in leadership psychology using scholarly evidence [MS.PSY.CORE.4]

Prompt

Your position paper should answer the following prompt:

Choose one or more of the current debates in the field of leadership psychology and defend a position. Sample debates include:

- Analytical versus holistic approach
- Individualism versus group cognition
- Balancing employee satisfaction/needs and the bottom line

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

1. Background – Detailed information about a debate prevalent in the field of psychology must be presented. The following questions must be answered:
 - a. Which debate was chosen? Why?
 - b. What is the historical importance of the debate?
2. Positions – To be considered a debate, there must be a discussion that involves opposition.
 - a. Address the distinct positions of the debate.
 - b. Is each side of the debate sustainable? Why or why not?
 - c. Are the leader's responsibilities practical in nature? Why or why not?
3. Defense – To be able to participate in a structured debate, one must choose a position and prepare to defend that stance.
 - a. Which side of the debate do you choose to defend? Why?
 - b. Provide an official position defense, including evidence to support your position using scholarly research.

Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Double-spaced Word document, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, APA format. The position paper should be 12–15 pages in length, not including title page and references, and should include no less than 5 scholarly resources.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (90%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Background: Selection	Meets “Proficient” criteria, and discussion is substantiated by scholarly research	Proposes logical reasoning for the selection of the identified debate for its prevalence in the field of psychology	Identifies an appropriate selection of a prevalent debate in psychology, but does not provide logically reasoning for its selection	An appropriate debate was not chosen	10
Background: Historical Importance	Meets “Proficient” criteria, and discussion is substantiated by scholarly research	Explicit and detailed discussion is provided of overall historical importance of the chosen debate	Discussion of the overall historical importance of the chosen debate is brief or lacking in detail	Historical importance of the chose debate is not discussed	10
Positions: Distinctions	Meets “Proficient” criteria and provides insightful references	Includes accurate and well developed distinctions between the opposing positions of the chosen debate	Includes accurate distinctions between the opposing positions of the chosen debate, but the discussion is not well developed	Does not include accurate distinctions between opposing positions	10
Positions: Sustainability	Meets “Proficient” criteria and discussion is substantiated by scholarly research	Adequately critiques each argument for applicable perceptions of sustainability	Provides a limited critique to the sustainability of each argument	Does not critique the sustainability of each argument	10
Positions: Leader Responsibility	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, relevant pieces of evidence when critiquing each argument	Adequately critiques each argument for the practical nature of leader responsibilities	Critiques each argument for the practical nature of leader responsibilities, but lacks specific detail	Does not critique the practical nature of leader responsibilities	10
Defense: Selection of Position	Meets “Proficient” criteria and addresses why this view was chosen, demonstrated by scholarly research	Identifies which argument of the debate will be defended and includes why this side was chosen	Identifies which argument of the debate will be defended, but does not include rationale for why it was chosen	Does not identify a specific side of the argument for defense	10
Defense: Official Position Defense	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes significant scholarly research that supports the position	Defends a position related to one side of the debate in a logical and comprehensive manner	Attempts to defend a position, but the defense is not comprehensive or there are gaps in the logic	Does not select a position to defend	30
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	10
Earned Total					100%