

**Scientific Method & Critical Thinking Paper (100 points possible).**

1. You will *thoroughly* explain *scientific method* and *critical thinking*. You will then utilize scientific thinking to explore a topic of your choice as an example. Your explanation should include a citation and a lengthy explanation of each in your own words.
2. You will research the topic and write a 4-5 page paper. All papers must adhere to APA format in regards to citations and references. Papers should have a 1” margin and be double spaced. A cover page is recommended and *does not* count towards the 4-5 page requirement. The reference page *does not* count in the 4-5 pages.
3. You will utilize at least *three* sources, one may be your textbook. However, all sources must be articles or books, *no websites!*
4. Any paper written that does not adhere to the above will be scored a zero with no second chances to make corrections! If you need help, ask!
5. Appropriate citations and references must be provided in *APA format*. Please ask if you are unclear. The Writing Center and Library provide free expert help in this area!
6. This paper will be due *in class* on the date specified in the Syllabus or by the professor. *No late work will be accepted for any reason.* No papers will be accepted by email.
7. *The paper is worth 100 points.*
8. See the Scientific Method Paper Grading sheet for details on how the paper will be graded (next page).

<b>Scientific Method &amp; Critical Thinking Paper- Grading Criteria</b>	Points Earned	
<b>I. MAIN PAPER BODY &amp; CONTENT (75%)</b>		
Identified & addressed the key elements in a substantive way. (25 points possible) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly described and explained <i>scientific method</i>.</li> <li>2. Clearly described and explained <i>critical thinking</i>.</li> <li>3. Clearly demonstrated an understanding of the material (<i>e.g., used your own words, paraphrasing</i>).</li> <li>4. Clearly applied the concepts of <i>scientific method</i> and <i>critical thinking</i> to your topic to demonstrate the importance of each.</li> <li>5. The information is presented and organized in a logical manner.</li> </ol>		
The content is comprehensive (at least 3 sources/articles reviewed- <i>websites do not count!</i> ), accurate, and/or persuasive. (15 points possible)		
The paper follow APA format for all citations and references (35 points possible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citations follow APA format (20 points)</li> <li>• References follow APA format (15 points)</li> </ul>		
<b>TOTAL: 75 points possible</b>		
<b>READABILITY &amp; STYLE</b> (10 points possible); 2 points possible per item		
Paragraph transitions are present and logical and maintain the flow throughout the paper.		
The tone is appropriate to the content and assignment.		
Sentences are complete, clear, and concise.		
Sentences are well constructed, with consistently strong, varied sentences.		
Sentence transitions are present and maintain flow of thought.		
<b>TOTAL: 10 points possible</b>		
<b>MECHANICS</b> (15 points possible); 3 points per item		
The paper, including the title page, reference page, tables, and appendices, follow APA guidelines for format.		
Citations of original works within the body of the paper follow APA guidelines.		
The paper utilizes clear headings, font styles, and white space.		
Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed.		
Spelling is correct.		
<b>TOTAL: 15 points possible</b>		
<b>TOTAL FOR PAPER</b> (100 points possible)		