Outline for Research Paper

Research Paper Overview:

During Unit VIII, you will submit a Research Paper based upon a topic related to neurological or psychological disorders from Chapters 15-18 of your textbook. The Research Paper will need to be at least 15 pages in length with five scholarly references to support your argument surrounding your topic, answer your research question, or support your points about the need for further research on this topic.

The Research Paper will be submitted in parts throughout Units I, II, IV, VI, and VIII (the final product), to provide appropriate feedback and ensure you are on track with your progress.

Unit I Research Paper Topic

For your first submission, you will need to choose a topic based upon a neurological or psychological disorder from Chapters 15-18 from which to create research questions. Once you have chosen your topic, you will need to submit an outline of your preliminary research with at least two scholarly references. Within your outline, discuss why you chose your topic, possible subtopics for focus (at least two), possible research questions you could investigate, and the relevance of your two scholarly references to your research. Make sure that your topics, research questions, and references have a biological approach (including psychopharmacology).

Your outline should be at least two pages in length, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, with appropriate APA style writing.

Unit II PowerPoint Presentation

Choose a psychotropic drug (antidepressant, anxiolytic (anti-anxiety medication), stimulant, or antipsychotic drug, for example,) and analyze it from a psychopharmacological point of view. It may also be helpful to visit your local pharmacist or physician to discuss the drug with them, as you may integrate their insights into your presentation. You will need to indicate and perhaps even include a visual to make the following points about your drug:

- Name of drug (brand and generic)
- Classification of drug
- Approved reasons prescribed (diagnoses or symptoms)
- How the drug is administered (e.g pill, IV, etc)
- Neurotransmitter(s) targeted
- Effect of drug in brain on neurotransmitter, receptors etc
- Effect on synaptic transmission (e.g. antagonist or agonist)
- Discuss pathways or how it affects neurons in the brain as applicable
- Visual of how it works in the brain (mechanism of action)
- Insights or comments obtained from a local pharmacist or provider who prescribes this drug.

Unit IV Literature Review

For your second submission for your Research Paper, you will need to write a Literature Review of your sources (at least three scholarly references) related to your topic that supports your research question (e.g. investigation of the biological basis for ADHD).

Before you submit your Literature Review, you need to make sure that you have the following:

- A topic based upon a neurological or psychological disorder that is biological in nature.
- A specific research question related to your topic.
- At least three scholarly references (It is preferable to have more than three).
If there are aspects of sleep or movement symptoms or these side effects related to your disorder, you may want to include these to link to the topic in this unit.

Within your Literature Review, each scholarly reference should be summarized in one paragraph for a total of three-five paragraphs. Your Literature Review should be double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, with appropriate APA style writing.

**Unit VI Research Paper Outline**

For your third submission toward your Unit VIII Research Paper, you will need to submit a draft of your Research Paper with several components to ensure you are on the right track.

- An outline of your research and the intended direction of your argument.
- At least five scholarly resources you have found that contribute to your topic.
- A brief annotated bibliography of two scholarly resources.
- An abstract outlining your topic and your subsequent findings.

This research draft should be double spaced with Times New Roman 12 pt font, and use appropriate APA style writing. While there is no minimum requirement for your draft, you should be thorough in your research so your professor (or a colleague) could adequately determine your intended research and the direction you are going with your paper.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VIII Research Paper**

For your final submission, you are to submit the Research Paper you have been working on throughout the course. The Research Paper should be at least 15 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, with appropriate APA style writing. The Research Paper must contain a minimum of five scholarly references supporting your argument surrounding your topic, answering your research question(s), and supporting your points about the need for further research on this topic.

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