Psychology Stranger Paper

Even though Psychology is part of the Social Studies family, it is rapidly becoming more of a science in its own right. Part of a psychologist’s job is to research, collect data, make observations, and form a conclusion. For this assignment, you will take on the role of a psychologist by making observations and forming a logical conclusion.

The goal for this project is for you to start thinking like a psychologist. Choose one person who you don’t know very well from your Psych class, and observe that stranger. You should be observing and actively recording (albeit secretly, so as not to expose yourself) the **behaviors** (or actions), the **physical appearance**, and the **spoken words** of your stranger for the next three weeks. Remember, people change their behavior when they feel that they are being watched (this is called the HAWTHORNE EFFECT), so you MUST be secretive in documenting their observations. Do not share the identity of your stranger with anyone else in the class. Otherwise, the data you collect may be skewed and inaccurate. Make sure to document the behaviors, physical appearance, and spoken words of your stranger in a daily chart or log, which will be turned in to the teacher. Keep in mind that you should be observing everyday in class and possibly in the hallway or after school to collect more data.

After you have collected about a week’s worth of data, you will need to make conclusions about your stranger. Conclusions should be logical yet creative. You will organize these conclusions into a formal paper to be turned in along with your observation log. Every conclusion MUST BE BASED ON AN OBSERVATION YOU MADE and fully explained. For example, it is incorrect to simply state that you believe your stranger will pursue a career as an actress; rather, you should explain that since it was observed that your stranger attended improvisation classes after school and that your stranger’s comments in the hallway had dramatic flair, it is logical that your stranger will succeed as an actress.

Conclusion paper reminders:

* 2-3 pages typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced with 1” margins
* Introduction (thesis statement is last sentence of intro), body paragraphs, and a conclusion
* Thesis statement should correspond to the body paragraphs
* Use active voice; avoid using “be” verbs (am, is, are, was, were, will, be, been, being)
* You may write in either present OR past tense; do not use a combination of the two
* Remember, you are writing objectively. Use third person--- avoid “I,” “you,” etc.
* There is no need for a Works Cited page.
* Indent new paragraphs, but DO NOT leave spaces in between paragraphs.
* Remember, all grammar rules apply. Points will be deducted for misspelled words, run-ons/fragments, incorrect punctuation, incorrect verb agreement, etc.

Formal paper along with the observation log is due on Thursday, September 11th at the beginning of the period as a hard copy.

Stranger Project Rubric

Observations:

* Student is making at least four observations of behaviors, physical appearance, and spoken words per day and explaining them in the essay. (15 points)
* Student is correctly and discretely filling out Observation Log. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points

Conclusions:

* Student presents logical conclusions about stranger in essay form. (15 points)
* Student fully explains observation to support conclusion in essay. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points

Mechanics/Grammar/Requirements

* Correct spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, tense, etc. (8 points)
* Typed format with Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced with 1” margins (4 points)
* Objectivity (6 points)
* Paragraph arrangement, including correctly formatted thesis (6 points)
* Fluency and organization (6 points)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points

Creativity

* Student exhibits creativity in forming conclusions. (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 100 points

Comments: