**PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER ASSIGNMENT HELP GUIDE**

TASK: Write a paper about some kind of psychological disorder, using various resources. Your professor will determine how long the paper is to be, and how many resources you are to use.

This guide will provide general help in using the Library to find various resources.

Remember that you can always ask for Research and Citations help at the Library, and you can always ask for Reading and Writing and Citations help at the Learning Commons.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

**College of DuPage Library**: <http://cod.edu/library/>

**Psychology Research Guide**: <http://www.codlrc.org/psychology>

**Citing Sources Help Guide**: <http://www.cod.edu/library/research/citenet.htm>

**Ask – A – Librarian for help:**  <http://www.codlrc.org/ask>

**College of DuPage Learning Commons**: <http://www.cod.edu/academics/learning_commons/index.aspx>

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Read over and fully understand the assignment provided by your **Professor**. If you have questions about the assignment, ask your **Professor** about this as soon as possible.
2. Look over the important websites above to understand what is available there, especially the **Psychology Research Guide** to see what kinds of resources are available to you.
3. Look over the **Citing Sources Help Guide,** to see what kinds of help you can find for correctly citing the various sources that you use for your paper.
4. If the **Professor** has not already assigned you a disorder to work on, think of some kind of psychological disorder that you would like to research and write about. These disorders are discussed in your textbook.
5. Once you have decided on a disorder, look in a **dictionary** to get a definition of the disorder, because you will want to define the disorder in your paper.
6. You can look in an **encyclopedia** for an article about the disorder, which will give you background information about the history of the disorder, important aspects of the disorder, and maybe the names of important people associated with treating the disorder.
7. You can search the **Library** **Catalog** for books about the disorder.
8. You can search the **Article Databases** for scholarly journal articles about the disorder, especially how it might affect particular **population groups** (such as teenagers), or various kinds of **treatments** (such as cognitive-behavior therapy).
9. If you need to look up information about a **Theory** that isassociated with this disorder, you can usually find theories discussed in **Encyclopedias**.
10. If you need to look up information about an important **Psychologist** associated with a disorder or theory, you can usually find information about them in **Encyclopedias** or **Biographical** reference tools.
11. If you need to find a **federal government website** with official information about the disorder, you can do a **Google** search for the name of the disorder and a government agency, like **CDC** [Centers for Disease Control] or **HHS** [Department of Health and Human Services]. A sample search statement might look like this: **obesity and cdc** OR **depression and hhs .** When you are looking at the results, check the address bar to see if there is a **.gov** in the website address/URL.
12. If you need to find a **professional association website** with information about the disorder, you can do a **Google** search like this: **apa and depression** [or whatever the name of your disorder is]. The best ones are from the **American Psychological Association** and the **American Psychiatric Association.**

Then comes the hard part – you have to read through the materials and pull out bits and pieces of information that you can plug into your paper. You have to write and re-write, and maybe do some more research to find still more information that you can use.

Please remember that no question is stupid – what is stupid is if you do not ask for help when you have a problem doing research.

Dan Blewett, April 2016