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### Attention Psychologists: Literacy Skills Needed!

In 2003, over 500,000 college freshmen declared psychology as their major field of study (“Statistics Indicate”). One Harvard study shows that many made their decision because they enjoy listening and giving advice to their friends (Jones et al. 57). While these are important skills to develop to become successful psychologists, other skills are also necessary. In fact, advanced literacy skills are imperative; comprehending difficult reading material and writing clear, concise prose are very important for those who wish to obtain credentials and to succeed as psychologists.

First of all, only students who can understand difficult textbooks and scientific studies will be able to complete the requirements for a college degree in psychology. Dr. Sosmart, professor at NDSU, explains that . . . (lots of specific details to follow).

In addition to reading comprehension, composition skills are also needed in college courses because many instructors give essay examinations requiring concise, complete explanations of complicated concepts (Sosmart). Instructors also require students to complete research projects and write up research reports, just as professionals do. For example, one assignment in Psychology 412 at NDSU . . . (more specific details).

After graduation, writing and reading become even more important because aspiring psychologists must apply for positions in a competitive job market. Sosmart recommends that . . . (more specific details).

Once a position is obtained, a psychologist must complete a variety of writing tasks on a daily basis. One very important task involves . . . (more specific details).

Another type of writing involves . . . (more specific details).

While writing is very important in psychology, so is reading. Professionals must read a variety of professional journals to keep current on the latest medical advances . . . (more specific details).

Obviously, much is involved in the field of psychology, and careful reading and effective writing are among the most useful skills. Those who desire to earn money by listening to people’s problems and finding solutions must also be able to communicate clearly in writing, and they must be able to stay current in their field by continued reading. Therefore, those who choose to enter this important profession should deliberately develop their literacy skills.

## Attention Psychologists: Literacy Skills Needed!

### I. Introduction

- A. Context: Statistics about college freshman declaring psychology major
- B. Relevance: While these are important, other skills are necessary.
- C. Thesis: In fact, advanced literacy skills are imperative; comprehending difficult reading material and writing clear, concise prose are very important for those who wish to obtain credentials and to succeed as psychologists.

### II. Body

- A. Transition + main point: First of all, only students who can understand difficult textbooks and scientific studies will be able to complete the requirements for a college degree in psychology.
  - 1. Support: Dr. Sosmart, professor at NDSU, explains that . . .
  - 2. Support
  - 3. Support
- B. Transition + main point: In addition to reading comprehension, composition skills are also needed in college course.
  - 1. Support: Instructors also require students to complete research projects and write up research reports, just as professionals do.
  - 2. Support: For example, one assignment in Psychology 412 at NDSU . . .
  - 3. Support
- C. Transition + main point: After graduation, writing and reading become even more important because psychologists must apply for positions in a competitive job market. Sosmart recommends that
  - 1. Support
  - 2. Support
  - 3. Support
- D. Transition + main point: Once a position is obtained, a psychologist must complete a variety of writing tasks on a daily basis.
  - 1. Support: One very important task involves . . .
  - 2. Support
  - 3. Support
- E. Transition + main point: Another type of writing involves . . . (more specific details).
- F. Transition + main point: While writing is very important in psychology, so is reading. Professionals must read a variety of professional journals to keep current on the latest medical advances . . . (more specific details).

### III. Conclusion

- A. Transition and recap of main ideas: Obviously, much is involved in the field of psychology, and careful reading and effective writing are among the most useful skills. Those who desire to earn money by learning to people's problems and finding solutions must also be able to communicate clearly in writing, and they must be able to stay current in their field by continued reading.
- B. Final thought for closure (call to action): Therefore, those who choose to enter this important profession should deliberately improve their literacy skills.