British Literature

Mini Research Paper

Topic: Psychological Theories Related to Behavior and Reflected in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*

Requirements: 2-3 page paper in MLA with a Works Cited page (minimum 3 sources, one of which is the novel).

Due Date: September 8 to Turnitin before the start of class

The following psychological theories and experiments address the complexities of human behavior. Why do we behave the way we do? How do others influence our behavior? Why do we withdraw rather than engage when we see others maltreated? What makes a person react violently? Is there such a thing as peer pressure? Why do good and innocent people do bad things? What makes people rebel against authority?

Choose one theory to research, summarize, and connect to the behavior of characters in *Lord of the Flies*.

**Robber's Cave Experiment**

**Stanford Prison Experiment**

**Stanley Milgram Experiment**

**The Asch Experiment**

**Irving Janis's Symptoms of Group Think**

**Bandura's Bobo Doll Experiment**

Set your paper up as follows:

INTRODUCTION (7 sentence minimum)

* Introduce the audience to the topic of human behavior and psychological theories in general (HOOK)
* Include a 1-2 sentence overview of the novel, with emphasis on character behavior
* End with a thesis connecting the experiment/theory with the novel
* Include author’s full name and title in the introduction

BODY PARAGRAPH 1 (10 sentence minimum, not including quotes)

* Begin with a topic sentence
* Overview the theory/experiment (5 W’s/1 H) and include the results/outcome
* Include two direct quotations (and citations) related to the research

BODY PARAGRAPH 2 (10 sentence minimum, not including quotes)

* Begin with a topic sentence
* Make the connection between the theory/experiment and the boys’ behavior by referring to and developing specific examples from the novel
* Include a direct quotation (and citation) from the novel

CONCLUSION (7 sentence minimum)

* Include no more than a 3 sentence summary
* Rephrase the thesis
* Draw a universal conclusion based on the topic of human behavior

**Rubric:**

INTRODUCTION 15 10 5

* Captures attention with an engaging and integrated hook
* Provides a brief introduction to the topic and overview of the novel
* Includes author and title of novel
* Ends with a thoughtful and clearly defined thesis

BODY PARAGRAPHS 40 35 30

* Body #1 overviews theory/experiment and incorporates 2 significant quotations about the research
* Body #2 connects research to behavior of characters in the novel through specific examples and 1 significant quotation from the novel
* Uses topic and closing sentences

CONCLUSION 10 5

* Draws a conclusion based on the topic
* Avoids repetition and simple summation
* Establishes a sense of finality by providing a universal statement or relating a powerful message

MECHANICS AND FORMATTING 15 10 5

* Demonstrates skillful editing
* Avoids run-ons and fragments
* Uses correct punctuation and standard English grammar
* Spells all words correctly
* Uses MLA formatting for heading, header, title, and spacing
* Accurately cites direct quotations

WORKS CITED PAGE 10 5

* Using MLA formatting, accurately documents references quoted in the paper

STYLE 10 5

* Uses sophisticated language with purpose and effect
* Connects ideas and paragraphs with skillful transitions clearly
* Varies length and structure of sentences