

End-of-Semester Psychology Symposium
Project Proposal Requirements
(aka: Checkpoint Charlie #1)

- **Indicate whether the project is a group or an individual project.** If a group project is desired, list the names of the members proposed for the group.
 - The number of members allowed is 3-4 members.
 - For group projects, only one proposal needs to be submitted.
- Indicate the following: **what is the subject that you would like to research, and what are the reasons you have interest in the subject?** This should be more than just a statement, such as “I want to research serial killers, because I think they’re creepy and interesting.” This response should be comprised of a short paragraph. It should be specific about the proposed topic and it should be specific when offering the reasons of interest.

A good interest statement:

An interest statement that is not-so-good:

The group wishes to research the effects of early childhood influences on the development of narcissistic personality disorder (NPD). The group also desires to research which treatment method appears to work best for NPD. The interest in this topic grew as a result of learning about abnormal psychology before the AP Psychology Exam, as well as viewing the video “Egomania” during class. The group finds it interesting the lengths to which people with NPD will go to get their way and the ways in which they appear to have no empathy toward others

I am interested in researching the ways in which obsessive disorders, like hoarding, start. My friend’s mom is a hoarder and I thought it was just her being lazy, but now that I’ve taken AP Psych I think there could be more behind it and I want to find out why.

- **Describe the project’s final, turn-in format.** For example, does the group plan to prepare a “slide presentation,” or a video format, or a “talk show,” or a podcast, etc.? Indicate, also, why there is interest in pursuing that format.
 - **Please Note:** the minimal expectation is that all groups or individuals at least have a slide presentation to provide a discussion of the research to the members of the class. This requirement is important to note for those wishing to submit a “traditional” research paper or a podcast. Those completing projects in a visual medium do not need to prepare a separate slide presentation.
- **Detail the preliminary hypothesis for the research?** Good research begins with a central question that is to be answered. Good research provides a possible answer for that question, and then the answer is tested against what research is actually uncovered.

A good hypothesis:

A not-so-good hypothesis:

These researchers hypothesize that those with NPD have experienced a real or perceived trauma in their early childhood. People with NPD seem to compensate for something that appears (to them) to be lacking in their lives. The research group believes that the narcissist’s belief that she is “better” than everyone and that she is “entitled” to having her way seems to be a distinct characteristic that can appear to be quite child-like. The researchers believe that available literature and anecdotal evidence will support their theory.

I think that hoarding begins in the brain, and that a neurotransmitter or hormone must be off in some way.

Make sure that your hypothesis leads you to a point where you’re *arguing* something in your research. The project you present in the symposium should not be simply “about” something. It has a point. And that point may be that your hypothesis is wrong. That’s okay! That’s the point of doing the research!

- **Determine a clever name to give the group or yourself.** You should have some fun with this.

GRADING CRITERIA:

10 pts.	All of the requirements are included and are beyond stated expectations. The proposal demonstrates a conscientious attention to detail in the desire to research a topic and in the development of the preliminary hypothesis.
9-8 pts.	All requirements are included and are above the average quality of work expected. There are details presented in the reason for research and in the preliminary hypothesis, but the reader is left with questions.
7-6 pts.	All requirements are included at the basic level. Questions posed by requirements are “answered” without providing details necessary to reveal insight regarding the desire to research a topic or to understand the hypothesis.
5 pts.	The work is incomplete or is clearly not at a standard expected in an AP course.