**Loyola Marymount University**

**General Psychology**

 **PSYC 1000**

Fall 2018

Professor: Josette Banks, Ph.D.

**Written Assignment #1:**

**The Psychological Lens on Current Events**

[Due 9/26/18; 10% of final grade]

**ASSIGNMENT:** This paper requires you to choose a current event or issue and apply the seven unifying themes to show how a psychologist might understand that event or issue. The purpose of this paper is to: practice how a psychologist might perceive and interpret current, public events; enhance understanding of how psychology impacts daily life (and vice versa); and, increase and enhance active critical thinking.

***Specifics****:*

* This paper should be a 3-5 pages in length;
* Choose a current event.
	1. This should be a local, national or world event or ongoing issue that has been publically reported on within the past month. Examples include: southern California wildfires or mudslides; immigration issues; protests during the national anthem; global warming; mass shootings; etc. …
	2. Describe the current event you are focusing on. Be succinct but ensure that there is enough detail for a person who may not know about the event. This section should be no longer than ½ pages.
* See the current event through the seven (7) unifying themes (see next page).
	1. Identify and briefly describe each theme individually (e.g., Psychology is theoretically diverse in that the same event can be understood in many different ways.)
	2. Give one (1) example of how the theme can be used to understand the event you have chosen (e.g., Erik Erikson would view the development of DACA Dreamers to be effected by current policy in ABC manner, while Freud would understand their development to be impacted in XYZ way…)
	3. Ensure you cite and reference your textbook for any information you used from it.
* Summarize the experience of applying the unifying themes to current events. Was it helpful/ useful? Not helpful/ not useful? Is there another way that events should be examined? If so, how?

These assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the designated due date.

**Late assignments** will be penalized 10% per day.

**PSYCHOLOGY’S UNIFYING THEMES**

Psychology as a discipline is:

1. Empirical
* Derived from, guided by, depending upon, provable or verifiable by… experience or experiment.
* Determined by use of theory, scientific method and research.
1. Theoretically Diverse
* Multiple topics\ issues
* Multiple theories on a single topic\ issue (peer review)
1. Evolves in a Socio-historical Context
	* + - Socio (family, friends, town, city, state, country, world…)
			- Historical (prior events, cohort, year, current events…)

Psychological Subject Matter is:

1. Determined by Multiple Causes
	* + - Internal (e.g., genetic, cognitive, emotional, etc.)
			- External (e.g., family, culture, media, etc.)
2. Shaped by Cultural Heritage
	* + - Ethnicity, Race, Nationality
			- Social identity, status, group
3. Heredity and Environment jointly influence behavior
	* + - Genetics
			- Context
4. People’s experience of the world is highly subjective
	* + - Affective (emotional)
			- Cognitive (thought)
			- Behavior (actions)