Rubric: APA Format Final Papers (Stroop)

Section & Weight	Target Criteria	Common Deductions
Document Type *(5%, 2.5 pts)*	Submitted as Microsoft Word document.	Submitted as any document type other than MS Word.
General Formatting, Mechanics, Style, & Title Page *(15%, 7.5 pts)*	1" margins, double-spaced, same font used consistently throughout paper. Perfect title page (professional), running head flush left, all caps, and 50 characters or less, page numbers flush right, clear headings (level 1, 2, 3, etc.), and proper 0.5" paragraph indentation. Zero spelling or grammar errors. Professional tone. Areas relating to group's research project written in past verb tense. For Final Research Papers #2B, changes that were suggested by professor from Research Proposal Paper #2A are fully incorporated.	Errors in APA style (e.g., inconsistent font, margins slightly off). Title page missing details. Paragraphs are not indented properly. Looks unprofessional. Some or many elements (margins, spacing, font) are wrong. No cover page or incorrect cover page. May contain spelling or grammar errors. Conversational or unprofessional tone. Failed to change verbs to past tense.
Abstract *(5%, 2.5 pts)*	**Summarizes all sections** in 150–250 words; includes independent/dependent variables and explicitly stated, clear hypothesis (e.g., It was hypothesized that...). Paragraph is not indented.	Exceeds word count; misses key findings; includes personal opinions or citations. Incorrect formatting; Indented paragraph. Missing hypothesis or unclear research hypothesis.
Introduction & Literature Review *(20%, 10 pts)*	Introduces a clear problem; synthesizes past peer-reviewed studies; ends with an explicit, **testable hypothesis**. Properly APA formatted in-text citations. Contains 3 peer-reviewed, and one additional, citation.	Reads like a list of summaries rather than a synthesis; fails to connect past research to the current hypothesis. Improperly formatted in-text citations. Missing some or all required citations (i.e., 3 peer-reviewed and one additional source).
Methodology *(20%, 10 pts)*	Provides extreme detail across subheadings: **Participants, Materials, and Procedure**. Anyone could exactly replicate the experiment.	Missing sample sizes, demographic info, or step-by-step procedure; forgets to state the experimental design. Missing detailed description of materials, providing examples of some survey questions. Missing subsections (i.e., Participants, Materials, Procedure).
Results *(10%, 5 pts)*	Reports statistical findings accurately using proper APA math notation (e.g., \(t\)(28) = 2.41, \(p\) < .05). Includes clear APA-formatted tables or figures. Anyone could exactly replicate the experiment.	Interprets findings here instead of just stating facts; formats statistics incorrectly; leaves out a statistical element such as sample sizes or degrees of freedom.
Discussion *(10%, 5 pts)*	Evaluates whether the data supported the hypothesis; links results back to the intro literature; names **limitations and future research directions**.	Merely repeats the Results section data; overstates the impact of findings; ignores alternative explanations or design flaws.
References & Data Display *(15%, 7.5 pts)*	Perfect hanging indents on the reference page; references properly cited using proper punctuation, containing all appropriate APA format elements, and in the correct order; tables have bold numbers and italic titles above the data grid; zero personal pronouns (*"I"*, *"We"*).	Tables look like screenshots or use vertical gridlines; in-text citations do not match references; improperly formatted references; missing elements for some or all reference; references not in alphabetical order.