PSY 101 – General Psychology

**Homework 2 (15 points)**

**What Draws Us to Facebook?**

Purpose of the assignment:

* practice close reading by locating and accurately reporting information from a secondary source article
* accurately summarize psychological studies using research methods terminology and concepts
* use critical thinking when generating an original research question/hypothesis and selecting an appropriate method for collecting data collection.

**Assignment:** Read the attached article. Type your answers to the following questions using complete sentences and providing support for your views.

1. In your own words, summarize how the purpose and image of Facebook has changed over the past 10 years. (1 point)

2. Two different views emerged to explain how Facebook impacts belongingness in users: 1) Facebook deepened relationships with distant friends and family, increasing belongingness versus 2) Facebook interfered with real-life relationships, decreasing belongingness and increasing loneliness.

1. Describe the research study Sheldon (2011) to examine these views. Make sure to identify the type of research method used and how information was collected from participants. (1 point)
2. What were the results of the study? Were these relationships an example of positive or negative correlations? Explain. (2 points)
3. The author states that the results were “paradoxical”. What does this word mean and why did the author use it to describe the results? (2 points)
4. Explain how Facebook might serve a different purpose for people who are lonely versus people who are not. (1 point)

3. Another line of research suggests that Facebook can increase a person’s self-esteem.

1. Describe the study of Gonzales and Hancock (2011). Identify the 3 experimental groups and what students did in each. What is the IV and DV in this experiment? (2 points)
2. What were the results/conclusions? (1 point)
3. How is the pattern of Facebook usage different for people who are narcissists? (1 point)

4. Research has found that Facebook can build social capital. Identify and explain the two forms of social capital discussed in this article. (1 point)

5. Propose a research study to further understand the relationship between personality factors and Facebook usage. Make sure that you have a clear question/hypothesis. Describe what information would be collected from participants and how. What would be learned if this study was conducted? (3 points)

Grading Criteria

* Assignment is typed
* Each question is answered completely and accurately
* Assignment is free of spelling and grammar errors

Winerman, L. (2013) What draws us to Facebook? *Monitor, 44(3*), 56-58.

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/2013/03/cover-facebook.aspx>