APA Style Grading Rubric
Major Declaration Paper

Title Page: **Yes**   **No**
   Content:
      Appropriately indicates the content of the paper
      Is concise

   Writing Style:
      Running head is correctly indicated
      Running head is appropriate abbreviation of the title
      Header is correctly indicated
      1" Margins
      Correct font – 12 pt Times New Roman

Body: **Yes**   **No**
   Why major in psychology?
      Provides personal interpretation of the definition of psychology
      Defines what it means to be an undergraduate psychology major at a
         Christian liberal arts college
      Includes two reasons why it is important to obtain a psychology
         major at WLC
      Identifies personal strengths and weaknesses that may determine
         success in the psychology program (at least 2 of each)
      Addresses successful experiences in psychology courses

   What are the benefits of attaining a bachelor's degree in psychology from a Christian liberal arts college?
      Describes career goals
      Describes the facets within psychology and areas within the liberal arts
         program that the applicant finds helpful in their learning, thinking
         and experience
      Describes relevant work and/or volunteer experience

   What is important to learn in an undergraduate psychology program from WLC?
      Identifies knowledge, skills, and attitudes the applicant hopes to acquire
         through concentrated study of psychology
      Reviews reasons for attending WLC (may include some of the 10 academic goals)

APA Writing Style: **Yes**   **No**

      1" Margins
      Double spaced
      Two spaces between the period and next sentence
      Right margin is not justified
      Indent each new paragraph 5-7 spaces
      Times New Roman 12-pt font
      No biased or pejorative language
      Avoid metaphors, similes, or other figures of speech including slang
      Uses vocabulary appropriate to the topic
      Is not wordy
      Appropriate use of first person (I, we)
      Avoids passive voice
      Avoids the verb "to be" (is, was, were, has been, etc.)
      Tense is consistent, subject-verb agreement
      Does not begin or end sentences with prepositions
      Fairly distributes gender pronouns

General Writing Style: **Yes**   **No**

      Introduction moves from broad statement of the topic to specific purpose/thesis
      Body is well organized and follows the thesis statement
      Conclusion summarizes the body and has a memorable ending
      Paragraphs are well structured
      Uses complete sentences
      Contains accurate spelling
      Avoids excessive quotes