

AP Psychology- Summer Assignment

Part I

Psychology is everywhere. Everything that we do, think, feel and believe is of interest to psychologists. A great deal of popular culture can also be understood using psychology.

In preparation for your study of psychology next year, please read ONE of the following:

The Psychology of the Simpsons by Alan Brown *or*

The Psychology of Harry Potter by Neil Mulholland *or*

The Psychology of Survivor by Richard Gering *or*

The Psychology of Superheroes by Robin Rosenberg.

((All titles are published by Benbella Books and can be bought from MBS or Amazon))

When you have finished I would like you to write a brief paper in which you do the following:

- Pick 2 or 3 of the essays that you found particularly informative/interesting and discuss what about each you enjoyed. Include some specific examples of what you learned or how what you read could be applied to your life.

Something to remember, in all papers and essays- not just this one, is that I am a big fan of using specific examples in writing. This is also true of the essay portion of the AP exam, using specific examples is the best way to get points (and not using them is the best way not to get points). Be sure that you use examples in your writing, your grade will thank you.

**** Part I is due the Friday of the first full week of classes, even if your class does not meet ****

Some general rules about papers:

- Typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman or Garamond font
- Place your name, Mod and due date in the top left hand corner of the first page
- Proofread and spell-check your paper, don't rely on Word to do this for you. Points will be deducted for glaring spelling/grammar errors that you should have caught.
- Use one staple in the top left hand corner to put your pages together. Do not use paper clips, binder clips, folders, report covers, etc. unless instructed to do so (and you never will be!). Make sure your pages are stapled together in order.
- Check Moodle for "Ten Commandments of Good (Historical) Writing" and follow it.
- Copying work, from any source, will result in a '0' on that work. It may also be grounds for removal from the course with an 'F'
- Work is due on time, late work is not accepted in this class.

Course 'Moodle' Page

Your syllabus, assignments (including this one) and other links will be posted on the Moodle Page for this class. To access the page, follow these steps:

1. Log on to www.achs.net/moodle
 2. Click on "Psychology"
 3. Then click on "AP Psychology"
 4. Create an account and register for the course or just be a guest
- Any questions, email me: nnaughton@achs.net
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Part II

Read the following case study of a student who sought help from a counselor:

Alicia is a 16-year-old high school junior. She requested help from her guidance counselor at the urging of her friends; they think that she may have an eating disorder. She sees herself as fat but her friends all think that Alicia is very thin. She maintains this low weight by eating practically nothing and drinking two quarts of water a day. She thinks about food “all the time,” but does not eat because she is so afraid of getting fat. Sometimes her hunger is so intense that she gives in to the cravings and “binges” on large amounts of food. During her last binge she ate a half gallon of ice-cream in less than 20 minutes. When she is done bingeing she works to get rid of the excess calories by vomiting. She is starting to think that she may have an eating problem. During the interview process, Alicia tells the counselor that her parents have been fighting a lot lately and that eating seems to be one of the things that she can control in her life.

Use your text and the case study to write a brief, to the point essay to answer the following question:

There are six major perspectives in psychology. Define each of the following perspectives and decide how a counselor using each perspective would explain the cause of Alicia’s problem.

- Biological
- Learning
- Cognitive
- Sociocultural
- Psychodynamic
- Humanistic

Be sure you follow the instructions on the other side for papers.

** Part II is due the first full day of classes, even if your section does not meet **

Please read and carefully consider

AP Psychology is a college-level class in which you will be expected to do a great deal of independent reading and note-taking (approximately 30-45 minutes on most nights) to prepare for class and understand material. You must be highly motivated and focused to do well in this class. If you are not prepared to work, consider whether or not you truly belong in this class. Your success or failure in this course is up to you; you are responsible for your own learning, or lack thereof. You can succeed and pass the AP exam if you put in the sustained effort.