

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 ordered from MBS, Amazon, etc.))

When you have finished I would like you to write a three or four page paper in which you react to the book overall and to several of the essays in particular. As you write, think about the following:

- What is your overall reaction to the book?
- Pick 2 or 3 of the essays that you found particularly informative/interesting and discuss what about each you enjoyed. This would be a great place to include specific examples of what you learned or how what you read could be applied to your life.
- What has this book done for your knowledge of/interest in psychology?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Would you recommend that this book be used again in a summer reading assignment? Why or why not?

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.

Some general rules about papers:

- Typed, double-spaced
- 12 point Times New Roman or Garamond font
- 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.
- Work is due on time, late work is not accepted in this class. Check the Moodle page for a specific due date for this project.

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
- Any questions, email me: nnaughton@achs.net

AP Psychology- Summer Assignment, Part II

Using your text or another source, define each of the bolded terms below and give an *original* example of each term (do not use the examples from the text!). Please number each term and keep them in order. There are 54 terms here and close to 600 to know by the AP exam. It will be combined with your paper and count as a test grade. ***Check Moodle for the due date***

You must be **intrinsically motivated** to be in this class for there are very few **extrinsic motivators**. Hopefully you'll get in the **flow** even before class begins. I'm certain that all of you did not miss the **critical period**, therefore you should be able to use both **fluid intelligence** and **crystallized intelligence** to find answers. Additionally, you will be using your **Broca's area** and **Wernicke's area** to communicate with everyone in our class while using correct **grammar**, proper syntax, **morphemes**, and **phonemes**. There will be all sorts of **transduction** and **parallel processing** happening in our brains as we journey into the world of **Psychology**. Our **hippocampi** will be very busy as we **encode** and find **storage** for information. You'll be asked to **recall** and **retrieve** for the unit tests without the use of artificial intelligence or other assistance. Instead you can use **mnemonics**, **chunking**, **imagery**, and **acronyms**.

Even though your **hormones** may be raging, hopefully no one in our class will be suffering from **narcolepsy**, **sleep apnea**, **insomnia**, **night terrors**, **split brain**, or a **lobotomy**, as that will make **learning** very difficult to say the least!

I can guarantee that this class will test your ideas of what is and is not a **norm**. I can also guarantee that this class will at times upset you, forcing you into **critical thinking**, **self disclosure**, and into **belief perseverance**. At the same time, this class will enlighten you about those of us who may have **psychological disorders**, **autism**, or **mental retardation**, and help to remove our **fixations** (non-Freudian definition here please), **functional fixedness**, **prejudices**, and **stereotypes**. But fear not, even though we enter the world of the abnormal, we head right into **therapy** to help us solve some problems and may inspire us to be more **altruistic**.

Your **creativity** will be valued in this class. Your **attitude** is critical for success and **social loafing**, slacking, procrastinating, copying or cheating are never good ideas. Working together to pass the AP Exam is one of our **superordinate goals**.

So, have a wonderful summer. Keep your **neural networks** going and be certain to protect your **brainstem**, **limbic system**, and **cerebral cortex** safe as our brains have only so much **plasticity**.

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 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.