

If you deliberately plan on being less than you are capable of being, then I warn you that you'll be unhappy for the rest of your life. -Abraham Maslow

AP Psychology Summer Project

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

Due: August 19, 2010 (1st class day)

Format:

Typed, Double Spaced, Arial 12 pt. font, 1-in margins

Papers must be a minimum of **three** pages and no more than **five** pages in length.

The paper will count as a **TEST** grade.

Title Page: Name, Date, Course Title and **AP Psychology Summer Project – Title of Book**

-Place the above information in the upper left hand corner of the title page and begin the paper on the second page

-Number pages(not including title page)

Part I:

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

The Psychology of the Simpsons by Alan Brown

The Psychology of Harry Potter by Neil Mulholland

The Psychology of Survivor by Richard Gering

The Psychology of Superheroes by Robin Rosenberg

(All titles are published by Benbella Books and can be ordered through any bookstore or online from Amazon.com for less than \$20 *new* and \$10 *used*)

When you have finished you will write a paper in which you react to the book overall and to several of the essays in particular. As you write, answer the following:

1. -What is your overall reaction to the book?
2. -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 and how what you read could be applied to your life.
3. -What has this book done for your knowledge of/interest in psychology?
4. -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 the best way to get points is to give specific examples in writing. This is also true of the essay portion of the AP Exam. Be sure that you use examples in your writing, your grade will thank you.

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Part II:

Due: August 19, 2010 (1st class day)

Using your text or another source, define each of the bolded terms below. Please number each term and keep them in order. There are 54 terms here and close to 600 to know by the AP Exam. The first 54 terms will count as a **TEST** grade.

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**.

Format:

Definitions may be typed or hand written in a single spiral notebook.

You will be building a dictionary for the AP Exam so begin these definitions using whatever means will be most useful to you throughout the course.