



Dear William & Reed AP Psychology Students:

I am so looking forward to having you in class next fall! As is customary with most Advanced Placement courses, there is a summer assignment for AP Psychology. The specific details of the assignment are at the end of this letter; however, before addressing your task, I would like to offer you a very brief overview of the course.

According to the official course description provided by the College Board, *“The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The aim of the course is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory courses.”*

That’s the “official” language. What does this mean for you? It means that AP Psychology is a **challenging college-level course & will be taught accordingly**. As your teacher, I expect that you attend class regularly, take thorough notes, willingly participate in class discussions, complete all assignments & study for tests. In addition, the ability & willingness to read and study on a regular basis is essential to your success in this class.

This course will prepare you for the AP Psychology exam to be taken in May; the course & course textbook are designed around the exam. However, you will be required to buy *Fives Steps to a Five (AP Psychology Edition)* by Laura Maitland and can be found at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com.

Below you will find information regarding your summer assignment – **please read the directions VERY carefully!**

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Basics of Assignment

This summer you will complete two different assignments - one that requires you to explore the major perspectives of psychology & another that requires you to think critically to analyze and synthesize psychological information as you read about influential psychological studies. apply your knowledge of these perspective to several different articles.
PLEASE COMPLETE THESE ASSIGNMENTS IN ORDER!

As you construct your responses, please keep the following in mind:

- All work should be **typed**
- Create **two separate assignments**; each assignment should have a heading
 - **Assignment #1:** Psychological Perspectives/**Assignment #2:** Influential Psychological Studies
- Make sure to write in **COMPLETE SENTENCES** & in paragraph format
- You should cite the resources that you utilized in your research (*include a works cited page in MLA format*)
- **USE YOUR OWN WORDS!**
 - **Do NOT copy & paste** – this is plagiarism (*see the last page of this document for information on plagiarism to help you avoid unintentional plagiarism. Anything that is not your own work will not earn point & could result in academic consequences*).

ASSIGNMENT #1: Psychological Perspectives

In the world of psychology, there are several different perspectives that psychologists use to describe and explain human behavior & mental processes. You can think of these perspectives as different “*lenses*” that one wears in order to study psychology.

For instance, if you approach psychology from a **BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE** you might ask questions about how a person’s biology influences his or her behavior & thought processes. If you approach psychology from a **SOCIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**, you might try to explain a person’s behavior & thought processes by looking at how “others” may have influenced them. These different “*lenses*” help to create various explanations from which we can analyze psychological phenomenon. In AP Psychology, we will focus on the following seven psychological perspectives.

- ✓ Biological
- ✓ Behavioral
- ✓ Cognitive
- ✓ Humanistic
- ✓ Psychodynamic
- ✓ Socio-Cultural
- ✓ Evolutionary

Attached is the copy of Unit One from the textbook you will be provided with for this course. Research each of the above perspectives. Then, replicate the attached chart (*next page*) and answer the following questions. If you have problems creating a chart on Microsoft Word, please let me know & I will send you a template. Please note that the information you provide for each perspective should be **very thorough**.

1. ***What are the basic beliefs, assumptions or approaches of the perspective?***

This question is essentially asking how each perspective explains human behavior and/or experience. Psychology does not offer a ‘*one size fits all*’ explanation, but rather varies depending on the perspective.

2. ***How would this perspective treat depression?***

Each perspective has a unique way of looking at/explaining psychological phenomena. For example, Johnny is a five-year-old who is acting out by hitting other children on the playground at recess. The **BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE** might explain Johnny’s adverse behavior by stating that his blood sugar levels are out of balance at this time of day, causing Johnny’s mood to become disagreeable & violent. Given this assessment of Johnny’s behavior, he should have a healthy mid-morning snack so as to prevent mood swings related to blood-sugar imbalances. On the other hand, a **BEHAVIORAL PERSPECTIVE** might state that Johnny is being violent towards children on the playground because he has observed other children hitting without consequence; therefore, Johnny’s violent behavior is a result of observational learning & associations. In order for Johnny’s behavior to stop, new, more desirable behaviors must be observed.

3. ***Who is a famous psychologist/psychological theorist associated with this particular perspective?***

For each individual, include the following information:

- Name
- Lifespan
- Specific area of study
- Basics of the individual’s study/work/theory (*****include the names of any famous studies or theories that they are known for – bold & underline these – see example below**)
- You should use each of the following psychologists/theorists (*one for each perspective*): **Sigmund Freud, B.F. Skinner, Elizabeth Loftus, Stanley Milgram, Roger Sperry, Abraham Maslow and Charles Darwin.**

*****Be sure to keep track of & provide references as to where you found your information*****

Example Chart

PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE: BIOLOGICAL	
Focus of the Perspective <i>(Basic beliefs/assumptions)</i>	MAKE SURE THAT YOUR RESPONSE IS THOROUGH & THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE PERSPECTIVE!
Application: Depression <i>(How would this perspective treat depression?)</i>	MAKE SURE THAT YOUR RESPONSE IS THOROUGH & THAT YOU CORRECTLY APPLY THE PERSPECTIVE!
PSYCHOLOGIST: ERIK ERIKSON	
<u>Area(s) of Study</u>	<u>Basics of Research/Study</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theories of Development• Psychoanalytic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erikson developed a theory that viewed development as a sequence of psychological stages defined by common problems that emerge throughout life – each with two possible outcomes. He believed that the success or failure of meeting the challenges in each stage helped to shape one’s personality.• His theory of development provided an approach to personality, expanding on Freud’s theory.• <u>Stages of Psychological Development</u>• <u>Identity Crisis</u>

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Part II: Influential Psychological Studies

Directions: In order to provide you with a solid foundation for success in this course and to discover the great diversity of this field, you will read selected sections from *Forty Studies that Changed Psychology*, by Roger R. Hock.

THERE ARE 8 ARTICLES TO CHOOSE FROM; YOU ONLY HAVE TO RESPOND TO 3 OF THEM! DO NOT DO THEM ALL- CHOOSE BASED ON YOUR INTEREST!

After reading, you are to respond to each selection given the guidelines that follow. *Your responses should reflect your ability to think critically, as well as your ability to analyze and synthesize psychological information.* Make sure to be **detailed & specific**, and to use your own words. **NO GROUP WORK IS ALLOWED AND WILL RESULT IN A ZERO!**

If you have any questions about these requirements, please see me as soon as possible, before the end of this school year. During the summer, you may contact me via email at cmckenzie@williamandreed.com with any questions that you might have.

Reading Selections: ALL ARTICLES ARE LOCATED ON THE W&R WEBSITE

- **Article #1:** "Are you a Natural?" (**Topic:** Biology & Human Behavior)
- **Article #2:** "To Sleep, No Doubt to Dream" (**Topic:** Perception & Consciousness)
- **Article #3:** "It's Not Just About Salivating Dogs!" (**Topic:** Learning & Conditioning)
- **Article #4:** "Little Emotional Albert" (**Topic:** Learning & Conditioning)
- **Article #5:** "What You Expect is What You Get" (**Topic:** Intelligence, Cognition & Memory)
- **Article #6:** "Discovering Love" (**Topic:** Human Development)
- **Article #7:** "Are You the Master of Your Fate?" (**Topic:** Personality)
- **Article #8:** "To Help or not To Help" (**Topic:** Social Psychology)

Responses

Respond to *each article* using the format below. Please be sure to address each of the following elements when constructing your responses.

1. What was the primary research question? In other words, what aspect of human behavior were the researchers interested in?
2. What were the results/findings of this study?
3. Discuss **one** example regarding the significance of this study.
4. What, if any, criticisms were directed toward the research?
5. Discuss **one** example of subsequent research in this area **OR** a **recent application** of this study.
6. What did you learn from reading this study? How did this study **improve or change** your overall understanding of psychology? **Please explain.**

Grading will be based on **clarity of thought, quality of ideas, succinctness and completeness.** In other words, do your summaries reflect a thorough reading and understanding of the article? Did you address all of the above questions? Are your responses thoughtful? Thorough? Well-written?

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If you have **ANY** questions, please let me know as soon as possible! This assignment is due on **Monday, August 9th** (*the first day of school*). Please be prepared to submit & discuss your assignment at that time!

Thanks for your interest in AP Psychology, and I look forward to working with you next year! I am confident that you will find our class challenging, interesting & fun. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance over the summer.

Have a great summer!

Mr. McKenzie