

AP Psychology Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Psychology! I am ecstatic that you have decided to join this class and chose to challenge yourself with the fascinating world of psychology. I am certain you will find this course worthwhile and personally relevant. Although it is the summer, there is work to be done. **Please note, AP Psychology is an elective, college-level course with higher student expectations than most courses taken by high school students.**

With that being said, it is imperative that we get a jump start on the AP Psychology curriculum. It is mandatory and, in your best interest, to complete the summer assignment. Your summer assignment is comprised of **THREE** mini-assignments. Each assignment will serve a specific purpose that will assist you throughout the school year and aid in your preparation for the AP Exam in May. You may turn these in as a hard copy on the first day of class or you may submit a digital copy through Google Classroom using the code: wfcaiiic. The assignment is also attached in Google Classroom if you lose this...

Assignment #1 – “Allow Me to Introduce Myself”

This assignment is designed for me to get to know you prior to the school year. **This assignment is to be emailed to me on or before the first day of class.** In this email, you are to use well written complete sentences, do not abbreviate words (i.e. language you would use through social media or your friends), and lastly, use spell check. This is a professional communication similar to what you would use with a college professor or employer.

Send the letter to: brmelhorn@henrico.k12.va.us

Subject of the email: Introduction to [Your Name], Period _____

In the **body** of the email, answer the following...

- *Introduce yourself
- *What are your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun?
- *What extra-curricular activities are you involved or planning to be involved in?
- *Do you have a job? What is it? Do you like it? Is this something you would like to continue as a career?
- *Why are you taking AP Psychology? What are you looking forward to in this class? What areas of psychology interest you?
- *Are you enrolled in other AP courses? Have you taken other AP courses throughout your high school career?
- *How will you manage your time throughout this upcoming school year?
- *What else should I know about you so that I have insight into you as a person?

Assignment #2 – “TED”

The second assignment will incorporate some technology. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas through short, powerful talks in 18 minutes or less. TED is an acronym for technology, entertainment, and design. I have sifted through the psychology section of TED and found 10 TED “talks” that could be of interest. Of these ten, you are to watch and **FIVE** of your choosing. After listening to these lectures, you will provide a one paragraph summary **OF EACH LECTURE** consisting of at least six sentences. Feel free to incorporate your opinion of the talk and discuss terms you were interested in, as well as terms you were unsure about. **This assignment is to be submitted to me on or before the first day of class.**

Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil
Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable is Your Memory
Keith Barry: Brain Magic
Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key to Success – Grit
Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness
Ben Ambridge: 10 Myths About Psychology Debunked

Martin Seligman: New Era of Positive Psychology
Susan Cain: Power of Introverts
Tony Robbins: Why We Do What We Do
Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are
Pamela Myers: How to Spot a Liar
Shawn Achor: The Happy Secret to Better Work

Assignment #3 – “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down”

Look through the list below and choose **two** to watch. If you are unsure about the movies, I suggest looking on IMDB for more information. You are to watch two of the films and complete the assignment below. **This assignment is to be submitted on or before the first day of class.**

***First paragraph** will be a review of the movie plot. Get to the point without many of the psychological details. This is where you would briefly identify main characters in the movies.

***Second/third paragraph** will be your opportunity to connect the movie to psychology. Each film is filled with psychological topics. You may need to conduct some minor psychological research to fully comprehend the topics discussed. Utilize these paragraphs to compare and contrast the themes in each film.

***The final paragraph** will serve as your conclusion and closing paragraph. In this paragraph, you are to give your opinion of the film. Did you like the film? Why, why not? Also, within this last paragraph, discuss the psychological importance of these films, in an attempt to persuade next year’s students in to watching these films on their own.

Benny & Joon – PG-13
As Good As It Gets – PG-13
Rain Man – R
Memento – R

The Butterfly Effect – R
Inside Out – PG
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind – R
Sybil – PG-13

A Beautiful Mind – PG-13
Vertigo - PG

Due dates are not negotiable and credit for each assignment will decrease each day it isn’t turned in. I can be reached by email at brmelhorn@henrico.k12.va.us if you have any questions and/or concerns. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you this September!

Keep in mind that psychology is everywhere. Everything we do, think, and feel can be related back to psychology. Have a great summer!