

AP Psychology Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Psychology! This course is designed to help you prepare for and pass the AP Psychology exam in May. Because this is a college level course, the reading throughout the year will be essential. I expect students to be self-directed learners who come to class prepared to discuss and reinforce what they have learned on their own. There is a lot of material to cover during the year, and so students will need to get a head start by completing a summer assignment.

I have outlined the summer assignment expectations below. Please start your work early and pace it throughout the summer so you can learn and remember the information in the most effective way possible. If you have questions throughout the summer, please e-mail me at alicia.greenwald@kippsaniose.org or call/text me at 408-315-7486. (I usually respond fastest to e-mail or text.) **All summer homework is due on the first day of school!** Enjoy your summer and have fun studying psychology! I look forward to seeing you again in the fall!

Ms. Greenwald ☺

1. (2-4 hours) Read Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science by John Fleischman. As you finish each chapter, complete the study guide questions on a separate piece of paper. Your answers must be written NEATLY or typed. Answer in complete sentences.
2. (1-2 hours/study, 8-16 hours total) I have included a packet of ~~18~~¹² important psychological studies. Please pick **EIGHT** of the ~~18~~¹² studies and complete the assignment below. You can choose any 8 that interest you, and you can of course read all ~~18~~¹² if you would like! These studies come from different areas of psychology and should give you an idea about the variety of areas in which psychologists work. These studies have all added pivotal knowledge to the field of psychology and it is likely that some or all of them will appear on the AP exam in May. They come from the book Forty Studies that Changed Psychology by Roger Hock. (You are welcome to find the book and read all 40 studies if you are feeling ambitious!) For each study, you will need to complete a short write-up that summarizes the key information you should remember. Your summary should include the following:
 - a. The name of the scientist or researcher
 - b. The purpose of the study (What question were the researchers trying to answer?)
 - c. Summarize the research methods used to conduct the study.
 - d. Summarize the results or outcomes of the study.
 - e. Discuss ONE example of the significance of the study or ONE criticism of the research.
 - f. Discuss ONE example of subsequent research in this area or recent applications of this study.
 - g. What did you learn? How do these findings fit in with what you already knew or thought you knew about psychology? Did this study challenge any of your previous beliefs about psychology? Explain.
3. OPTIONAL – You can purchase the Barron's AP Psychology test prep book and use it to get a head-start on the material we will be covering next year. It is also a great resource to use as a study guide throughout the year and before the AP exam.

Phineas Gage Study Guide

Directions: After you read each chapter answer the study guide questions. You may neatly write or type your answers. Answers should be answered thoughtfully and in complete sentences.

Chapter 1: "Horrible Accident in Vermont"

1. When did Phineas' accident happen? (Include date, month, and year)
2. Describe the accident which changed Phineas' life.
3. The author asks the reader to think about whether Phineas was lucky or unlucky. Explain how and why the open nature of the wound was both lucky and unlucky.
4. Why did the railroad contractors decide not to hire Phineas back after his recovery?

Chapter 2: "What we Thought About how we Thought"

1. What is "Ether" and how did it change surgery?
2. Make a T-chart or Venn diagram comparing the photo on p25 with a modern operating room. (You may need to find information about the modern operating room online or at the library.)
3. What do the following parts of the brain do?
 - a. The brain stem
 - b. The cerebral cortex
 - c. The corpus callosum
 - d. The cerebellum
 - e. The limbic system
 - f. The frontal lobe
4. Draw and label the (right hemisphere) half brain diagram on p28.
5. Which lobe did the tamping rod pass through during Phineas' accident?
6. What is the fundamental unit or building block of all living things? What is the fundamental unit of the brain?
7. Approximately how many neurons do the human brain and spinal cord contain all together?
8. Draw and label a neuron.
9. What is a synapse and what happens in the synapse.
10. About how many synapses are in each neuron? How many are in the entire human brain?
11. Explain the beliefs of the "Whole Brainers" and the "Localizers." Who was ultimately correct?

Chapter 3: "Following Phineas Gage"

1. What is epilepsy? Describe what an epileptic seizure is.
2. Back in 1860, how did the doctors try to treat Phineas' seizures?
3. How did Phineas die? How old was he?
4. Who was Paul Broca? What is Broca's area?
5. Who was Carl Wernicke? What is Wernicke's area?
6. Would you say Broca and Wernicke were "Whole Brainers" or Localizers?" Explain.
7. Why do you think Dr. Harlow wanted to do an autopsy of Phineas' brain after he died?
8. What did Phineas' doctor mean when he wrote that "Gage was no longer Gage," after the accident? Explain.

Chapter 4: "Putting Phineas Together Again"

1. Who are Antonio and Hanna Damasio?
2. What types of injuries do their patients have? How do they get those injuries?
3. Why do the Damasios measure conductivity with a skin response machine?
4. How did Dr. Hanna Damasio "reconstruct" Phineas' brain to discover exactly what parts of his brain were destroyed? Why was this important?

AP Psychology Course Website

Over the summer, please also take a minute to visit my website and share your contact info with me.

This will be useful for three reasons:

1. If you end up **not** being enrolled in my class, I will use this to contact you and let you know that you do NOT need to complete the summer work.
2. I will upload a copy of the summer work to the website for you to access if you lose your packet. (Also there are a variety of other resources that will be added throughout the summer – you are welcome to explore these if you are interested!)
3. I also ask you to share what interests you about psychology. I would like to add information about topics of interest to my website (and ideally into class as well) and so knowing this will help me know what topics to find information for.

My website is: mslockhart.weebly.com (Yes LOCKHART not Greenwald 😊)

Please click on the tab across the top that says “blog.” On the blog page you will find a button that links to the contact info survey. Please click on the button and fill out your contact info. This should take you no more than 5 min.

Thanks! 😊