



# Advanced Placement Psychology

## Summer Assignment 2022



Greetings and welcome to AP Psychology!!!! This is the beginning of your experience in a class that I hope will be one of the most fascinating and meaningful courses you've ever taken!

The objective of this summer assignment is to begin introducing you to some of the concepts we will be discussing this upcoming school year.

This assignment is not super difficult but it does require some TIME and EFFORT! All students say when they first get this packet, it seems intimidating but once they do it, it was a lot easier than they thought.

**This assignment is due IN FULL on the first day of school.** Failure to complete this assignment will bring into question your commitment to the class and result in a conversation about your future in the course.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the summer, please feel free to email Mr. Quinn at [john.quinn@pgcps.org](mailto:john.quinn@pgcps.org) ; I will be checking my email periodically throughout the summer.

### **Part I: Introduction Email**

First, join Google Classroom using code: [x42wded](#). Then, anytime before August 1st, I want you to email me with the below information. This is also your chance to ask me questions about your summer assignment, because by August you should have read this over and, at the very least, created a plan to complete it.

I am your teacher and you are about to be an adult - therefore your email should come from a professional email address and formatted in a professional manner. You are not texting a friend; you are emailing your future instructor for a college-level course.

- 1) Your name and grade level.
- 2) Why are you taking AP Psychology? (Be honest with this as it helps me understand what you are hoping to get out of the course.)
- 3) What have you done or are you going to do this summer? (Other than your AP Psych assignment! You can include exciting things, normal things, family stuff, summer jobs - whatever you want! I just want to get a better idea of who you are.)
- 4) Some of your "favorites" whether it be music, food, movies, tv shows, places, etc.
- 5) What is your favorite or most meaningful class you've ever taken or teacher you've ever had? And more importantly...WHY?
- 6) What are your plans for your life after FDHS? You don't have to have everything figured out and things are likely to change (especially for the juniors in the class) but give me an idea of what you are thinking.

### **Part II: Introduction to History and Approaches of Psychology**

For this part of the assignment, you will need index cards. You will be using index cards A LOT throughout our course, so feel free to buy them in bulk. Alternatively, if you are unable to get index cards, you can create your own by cutting paper (preferably construction paper) into rectangles.

Listed below are the main approaches to psychology outlined in the version of the textbook we are using. Different psychology books may have slight variations in name, but overall, these are the main ones to be focused on and that will come up throughout our course.

- If you wish to sign out an AP Psychology textbook prior to the end of the school year, see Mr. Quinn in Room 114 before Friday, June 17th.
- If you want access to a summary PDF of the introduction of psychological approaches, join the Google Classroom (code posted above) and it is posted.
- Please **be sure to NOT simply copy and paste definitions** you find on the internet for the following items, but to actually write things in your own words. Copying and pasting will not help you internalize what each term means.

**For each approach listed below, complete the following HANDWRITTEN on index cards:**

- 1) Describe each approach to psychology.
- 2) List prominent psychologists associated with each approach.
- 3) Provide an example of the type of research or a famous experiment/study associated with each approach.

### **1. Biopsychosocial**

### **2. Evolutionary**

### **3. Behavioral**

### **4. Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic**

### **5. Biological**

### **6. Cognitive**

### **7. Socio-cultural**

### **8. Humanistic**

You will have a quiz Week 1 of the school year on this information, so best to start learning it now!

## **Part III: Naturalistic Observation Lab Report<sup>1</sup>**

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behavior. This summer, you will get a taste of how the scientific method is used to learn about behavior. One important research method used by psychologists is naturalistic observation. I do not expect you to design the perfect naturalistic observation. However I do expect you to be able to create a well-written lab report that conveys what happened during your observation, identifies difficulties that arose during your study, and discusses potential solutions for those problems.

Carefully follow the directions and rubric while writing your report. Attach the rubric to your lab report and turn it in on the first day of school.

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<sup>1</sup> Inspiration and directions for this assignment comes from Mrs. Thies, a fellow AP Psychology teacher, who was kind enough to share this assignment in a collaborative group of AP Psychology teachers across the country.

## **Directions:**

- 1) Pick a behavior that you can easily observe many individuals demonstrating. Some potential behaviors may include things people do at a mall, the beach, a restaurant, a sporting event, or any other public place you find yourself in this summer. Your location must be safe and ethical, and you must have your parents' or guardians' approval. Note: Safety is key during this activity. Also note that you should not be interacting with the subjects that you are observing - this is purely **observing** a natural situation.
- 2) Before beginning your observation, **form a question** about the behavior. Some examples might be: "Do more men or women order junk food?" "Are men or women more aggressive while watching sporting events?" "How many people are texting or on a cell phone while waiting in a line?" "Which location in the mall food court do most people choose to eat at?" "Do different coaching styles impact player performance?" "Does age determine whether or not a person will hold open a door for the next approaching person?" Once you have your question, form your **hypothesis**, or expectation of what will happen; for instance "More men than women will order junk food at the mall food court."
- 3) Select your location and decide exactly how you will observe and collect data unobtrusively. Create an **operational definition** of the **variable(s)** you are focusing on. For instance, if you were focusing on whether more men or women order junk food, you would need to precisely define what junk food is so that you would know what to count and what not to count, and to also to allow for the future replication of your study.
- 4) Spend at least two hours observing the behavior and collecting **data**.
- 5) Create a lab report documenting your study. There is no required length; what is most important is that all of the following components are fully and clearly addressed. **You must title each section based on the outline below.** Also, scientific writing is very different from writing you have done in other social studies classes. The purpose is to convey what you expected, what you did, and what you found as clearly and efficiently as possible. Cut to the chase- be concise, tight, clean, and specific.

**Introduction:** Write a paragraph about the question you set out to study and what you expected to find. Include your logic for the predictions you made. The last sentence should be your hypothesis. For example "My hypothesis was that more men than women would hold the door open for the next person." A hypothesis is always a statement and never a question.

**Methods:** Write a few paragraphs about your method. There should be enough detail in this section for someone to replicate your study, should they wish to do so. For instance, you would include the location of your observation, who exactly you observed (for example, 30 adults between the ages of 20-45), how long you observed for, what you did to remain unobtrusive, and how you recorded your data and all operational definitions.

**Results:** Write a paragraph presenting your data. You do not need to do any complicated statistics, but you need to include simple descriptive statistics such as mean, median, mode, totals, ranges, a bar graph, pie chart or any other visual to help the reader understand the data. Which descriptive statistical techniques used will depend on the specifics of your observation. You may also need to convert your results to percentages, particularly if you are examining a variable such as age or gender and your sample is not balanced. Review online resources if you need a refresher on mean, median, and mode or any other mathematical concept - don't be afraid, math in AP Psych is very simple math.

**Discussion:** This will be the largest and most important part of your write-up. Nothing is going to go as planned and many **confounding variables** will pop up during your study. Afterwards, you will think of many ways you could have done better. It is also perfectly acceptable if your hypothesis is proven wrong- all you need to do is try to explain *why* it might have been proven wrong. This section is your chance to discuss all of that. Discuss: what you think the data tells you about your question, what additional questions were raised during the study, what confounding variables were present, what would you have done differently, and why?

*Above all- have fun doing this. This is meant to make psychology come alive and make learning about the components of research design hands on and memorable!*

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns throughout the summer. I am very excited to have each of you in class next school year and to have a terrific year of learning and growing together! Have a restful, fun, and meaningful summer!

All the best,  
Mr. Quinn