

AP Psychology Summer 2018 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 that 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 preparations for the AP Exam in May.

Assignment #1 - "Allow Me To Introduce Myself" (8/28)

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 August 28th. In this email, you are to use well written, complete sentences, do not abbreviate words, (i.e. language you would use on Twitter, text messages, the hallway, etc.), and lastly, use spell check. This is a professional communication similar to what you will use with a college professor or employer.

- * Send the letter to: epolaco@waterbury.k12.ct.us
 - * Subject of email: Introduction to [Your Name]
 - * In the body of the email, answer the following...
 - * Introduce yourself. (Include Birthday)
 - * 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?
 - * What are your goals/plans post-high school?
 - * 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 before the next school year begins.

Assignment #2 - "TED" (8/28)

This assignment will incorporate some technology. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in 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 "talks" that could be of interest. Of these ten, you are to watch any SIX of your choosing. After listening to these lectures, you will provide a one paragraph summary OF EACH LECTURE consisting of at least seven 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 emailed to me on or before August 28th.

<i>Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil</i> <i>Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable Is Your Memory</i> <i>Keith Barry: Brain Magic</i> <i>Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key To Success - Grit</i> <i>Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness</i> <i>Ben Ambridge: 10 Myths About Psychology Debunked</i>	<i>Martin Seligman: New Era of Positive Psychology</i> <i>Susan Cain: Power of Introverts</i> <i>Tony Robbins: Why We Do What We Do</i> <i>Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are</i> <i>Pamela Meyer: How To Spot A Liar</i> <i>Shawn Achor: The Happy Secret To Better Work</i>
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Assignment #3 - "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down" (8/28)

Look through the list below and choose two films 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 emailed to me on or before August 28th.

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

* The second/third paragraphs 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 in fully comprehending the topics discussed. Utilize these paragraphs to compare and contrast the themes in each film. You must discuss at least two topics, so choose wisely.

* The final paragraph will serve as your conclusion and closing paragraph. In this paragraph, you are to give your opinion of the films. Did you like the films? Why, why not? Also, within this

last paragraph, discuss the psychological importance of these films, in an attempt to persuade next year's students into watching these films on their own.

Benny & Joon - PG-13
Sybil - PG-13

As Good As It Gets - PG-13
Perks Of Being A Wallflower - PG-13

Assignment #4 - "Failing To Prepare Is Preparing To Fail" (8/28)

This assignment is easy. Read chapter 1 of our textbook, and copy down the vocabulary words. Now, you can't just simply copy the term and the definition. You must write the term, definition, and application. It is imperative that you follow the protocol for this assignment because throughout our studies of the 14 units you will be required to turn in your vocabulary notebooks for a grade; and they MUST follow the steps in order to earn full credit. I know you're probably thinking "Why all this work for vocab words?". Well, if you can't apply these terms then you will have a difficult time on the AP exam in May. Your notebook will be returned un-grade if the following is not completed:

See the example below:

Term	Definition	Application
Wilhelm Wundt	set up first psychological laboratory in Leipzig, Germany in 1879; known for training subjects in introspection and for his theory of structuralism	Wundt was a leading psychologist in executing experiments in a laboratory.

Lastly, I will provide a list of materials that you will need for this course. Time management and organization are the keys to success in any AP class. You will need the following materials for the school year:

2 notebooks- 1 for notes, 1 for ONLY vocabulary. (Having separate notebooks will allow you to leave your vocab notebooks with me overnight to grade.)

14 Two pocket folders- One folder per unit.

Students are **highly encouraged** to purchase an AP Test Prep book. I recommend the **Barron's** or **AP Psychology Crash Course**.

Purchase your supplies for this class before the first day of school. Staples, Target, and Walmart always have these items on sale in August; be sure you get a good deal for these materials.

For the summer assignment:

Due dates are not negotiable and no credit is earned for late assignments. I can be reached at epolaco@waterbury.k12.ct.us if you have any questions and/or concerns. I look forward to working with all of you this fall.

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

This summer assignment was adapted from Mr. Fernandez's Summer Assignment 2016