Dear AP Psychology Students,

We are excited that you have decided to accept the challenge of taking an AP course and we are thrilled to open your minds to the amazing world of psychology! Our hope is that you will strengthen your academic and intellectual skills, establish a foundation for future studies in the many fields of psychology, and find a deeper insight into what makes humans (including you!) the way they are. Before we begin teaching you, we would like to expose you to the fascinating world of psychology by having you read a book from the list below. Secondly, we will use this assignment to assess your writing skills and your ability to follow a prompt. Each of the books on the reading list contains multiple examples of research studies, both experiments and case studies, about psychological principles and phenomena.

SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT: Pick one book from this list to read and write about according to the writing prompt. You may check these books out from a public library (you will not need to bring the book to school), upload them to a digital reading device, or buy them at a local bookstore or online. If you are buying your book, get a used paperback; there is no need to spend extra on the hard copy. Note: all synopsis in quotes are copied from Amazon.com.

1. The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement by David Brooks
   Synopsis: “This is the story of how success happens, told through the lives of one composite American couple, Harold and Erica. Drawing on a wealth of current research from numerous disciplines, Brooks takes Harold and Erica from infancy to old age, illustrating a fundamental new understanding of human nature along the way: The unconscious mind, it turns out, is not a dark, vestigial place, but a creative one, where most of the brain’s work gets done…” Psychology Topics: social psychology, the brain, the unconscious realm of the brain, human development

2. The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat by Oliver Sacks
   Synopsis: A compilation of fascinating case studies of unusual psychological phenomena based on patients with whom Dr. Sacks, a renowned neuroscientist, has worked. Psychology Topics: abnormal psychology, neurological disorders, the brain

3. Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do by Claude M. Steele
   Synopsis: “Claude M. Steele, who has been called "one of the few great social psychologists," offers a vivid first-person account of the research that supports his groundbreaking conclusions on stereotypes and identity. He sheds new light on American social phenomena from racial and gender gaps in test scores to the belief in the superior athletic prowess of black men, and lays out a plan for mitigating these "stereotype threats" and reshaping American identities". Psychology Topics: social psychology, racism, bias, identity threat, implicit bias, achievement gap

4. Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century by Lauren Slater
   Synopsis: “Through ten examples of ingenious experiments by some of psychology's most innovative thinkers, Lauren Slater traces the evolution of the century's most pressing concerns—free will, authoritarianism, conformity, and morality.” Psychology Topics: research methods, classic experiments in psychology

5. Forty Studies that Changed Psychology by Roger R. Hock (any edition is fine)
   Synopsis: “Roger Hock’s Forty Studies provides a glimpse of the science of psychology, unraveling the complexities of human nature. This book provides a more in-depth look and analyses that cannot be found by reading a textbook or research alone. It has the original studies, research & analysis about the most famous studies in psychological history.” Psychology Topics: research methods, classic experiments in psychology

(See back for written assignment instructions.)
Written Summary of Book

Formatting expectations

- Typed single-spaced, size 12, Times New Roman font
- The top right hand corner should state your full name and the date
- The paper should be 2-3 pages in length.
- Your grade will be based on following the prompt, following the formatting guidelines, and proper grammar, syntax, and spelling.

PROMPT
This should be written as a formal paper with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. You do NOT need a thesis statement since you are not making an argument.

- The introduction should state the title and author of the book and present a brief description of what the book is about.
- For your 3 body paragraphs, pick any 3 studies that you found most interesting from your book to describe. For each study, note the following:
  - What condition, phenomenon, or process was being studied?
  - How was the study conducted and by whom? (Identify researcher(s), procedures, test subject(s), and variables).
  - In what way did the study further our understanding of human (or other animal) behavior or mental processes? (In other words: What did the data show and how did it help psychologists better understand humans or animals?)
  - What did you find interesting about this particular study or topic that was being researched?
- The conclusion paragraph should state what you thought about the book in general and what, if anything, you learned about yourself, other people, or the principles that guide human behaviors and mental processes.

Your book summary is due on day 1 of your AP Psychology class. (If you have printer problems, please email a copy of the work to yourself or put it on Google Drive so you can access it at school.) This assignment is worth 100 points and should exemplify your best effort.

FYI: Here are the book requirements for next year (don’t worry, we don’t expect you to start reading these over the summer!); however, it is imperative you have both of these books by day 1 of your class to begin your learning process.

1. *Myers Psychology 8th Edition in Modules* – you will be able to check these out from the book room; however, if you wish to highlight and annotate within the textbook—both of which are skills that will enhance your understanding and you will want to use in college—you should buy your own. It is available at any college bookstore for $100 as well as on Amazon.

2. *Barron’s AP Psychology test prep. book 7th edition*  
The 7th edition is the most current. Older versions do not have the updated sections on abnormal psychology.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either one of us at:

Stephanie Chamberlain  schamberlain6@cherrycreekschools.org  Heather Nelsen  hnelsen@cherrycreekschools.org

We sincerely look forward to meeting and working with you next year!

Stephanie Chamberlain and Heather Nelsen
Dear Parents,

May 9, 2017

Your student will need to purchase the following book for AP Psychology by the start of the school year:


As it is a book that your student will use frequently and be writing in, at the beginning of the school year, we would like for you to have it by the first day of school. You may choose to purchase one online via Amazon or other sources, or at any bookstore. But you must have it on the first day of class. As an option, you may decide to purchase the review book with a CD-ROM, which has some additional review materials with it.

Thank You.

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