



AP Psychology- Summer Assignment

Future AP Psychology Students,

Welcome to AP Psychology. We are excited that you have decided to join this class and choose to challenge yourself with the fascinating world of psychology. We are 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. **You will choose ONE** of these assignments to complete before the beginning of the year. 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

This assignment is designed for me to get to know you prior to the school year. In addition, this paper will help you to start thinking about your “ideal self” which we will discuss 2nd semester. In this assignment, you are to use well written, complete sentences, do not abbreviate words and please use spell check. This is a professional communication similar to what you would use with a college professor or employer. Complete the assignment below and bring it in on your first day of class.

- Introduce yourself.
- What are your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun?
- What extra curricular activities are you involved in 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 or plans for 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- Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down

Look through the list below and choose **TWO** films to watch. **Complete the assignment below and bring it in on your first day of class.** Assignments should be word processed, double spaced, 12-point font, Times or Times New Roman.

Assignment Requirements

- First paragraph will be a summary of the movie plot. This is where you will briefly identify the main characters in the movie and the situation in which they are facing.
- The second/third/fourth paragraphs will be your opportunity to connect the movie to psychology. You may need to conduct some minor psychological research to fully comprehend the topics discussed. Go to <http://psychology.about.com/>. Be prepared to discuss how the movie illustrates a particular behavior theory or psychological concept.
- The final paragraph will serve as your conclusion. In this paragraph, you are to give your opinion about the film. Discuss the psychological importance or relevance of this film to understanding human behavior.
- Repeat the above for the second movie.

Movie Choices

Inside Out—PG

Shutter Island--R

A Beautiful Mind—PG 13

One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest-- R

Good Will Hunting – R

Catch Me if you Can—PG 13

Assignment #3 – “TED, Talk To Me.”

This assignment will incorporate some technology. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in short, powerful talks of 18 minutes or less. TED is an acronym for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. We have sifted through the psychology section of TED and found eight “talks” that could be of interest. Of these eight, you are to watch any **FOUR** of your choosing. After watching these lectures, you will provide a **TWO** paragraph summary **OF EACH LECTURE**. One of these paragraphs will be your summary of the talk and the other will be your personal reaction to the talk. Assignments should be word processed, double spaced, 12-point font. Please bring the completed assignment to your first day of class.

- Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil
- Keith Barry: Brain Magic
- Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key to Success – Grit
- Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness
- Ben Ambridge: Ten Myths About Psychology Debunked
- Susan Cain: Power of Introverts
- Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are
- Pamela Meyer: How to Spot a Liar