

AP Psychology Summer Assignment 2023-2024

The Nature of the Class:

AP Psychology is a college-level course (Psych 101) that will have higher expectations than the traditional high school courses. This course has been designed to help you prepare for and pass the AP Psychology exam which you will be taking on Thursday May 9th, 2024. You will be expected to complete all assignments, come to class prepared each day, keep up with your reading, and participate in class discussions. The ability and willingness to read, study and participate regularly in class is essential for success. There is not enough time to cover every term, concept or theory in class, so you will be responsible for learning some information independently. To succeed in this course, you need to be motivated and willing to work.

Supplies/Materials for class.

It is recommended that you have the following for materials the first day of class:

- Folder / Binder (There will be plenty of handouts during the class)
- Spiral Notebook (for Reading Notes)
- Chromebook or laptop device
- Pens (three color pen) & Pencils
- Positive attitude, high motivation & a mind ready to learn

SummerAssignment:

You will complete 3 tasks this summer. Please read the instructions carefully. **NO GROUP WORK** is allowed. There will be a separate google class assignment set up for each of the assignments. If you have any questions about the requirements or the assignments, please email as soon as possible. All parts due at the start of classes. Class/teacher specific Google Classrooms pages with assignment drop boxes will be created prior to the first day of classes

Task #1: About Me Letter

- This assignment is designed for me to get to know you.

Include the following in your letter (Share at your comfort level)

- Introduce yourself. Tell me about your family, where you are from, and an interesting fact from your childhood.
- What are your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun?
- What extracurricular activities are you involved in or planning to be involved in? Sports? Clubs? Other activities?
- Do you have a job? If so, what is it? Do you like it? Is this something you would like to continue as a career?
- What are your goals or plans after high school? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- 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 do you plan to manage your time throughout this upcoming school year? If you are a senior/12th grader, how will you avoid catching the inevitable senioritis bug?
- What else should I know about you so that I have insight into you as a person as the year begins?

Summer Assignment Part 2: Naturalistic Observation Assignment

Background: Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and 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. **Naturalistic observation is a method that involves observing subjects in their natural environment.** The goal is to look at behavior in a natural setting without intervention. I do not expect you to design the perfect naturalistic observation. However I do expect you to be able to create a well-written report that conveys what happened during your observation, identifies difficulties that arose during your study and discuss potential solutions for those problems. Conduct your study, compose your TYPED REPORT and submit via Google Classroom on the FIRST day of school. Approximate length 2 pages.

Directions:

1. Pick a behavior you can easily observe many individuals demonstrating. Some potential behaviors may include people doing things at the park, the beach, town pool, a local sporting event, or any other public place. Your location **must be safe and ethical**, and have your parents' approval. Before beginning your observation, form a question about the behavior. Here are some examples you can choose from, **but we encourage you to create your own:** **Do NOT to stage or create the conditions for your observations; this is a Naturalistic Observation.**

- 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 cell phone while talking in person with others?
- Does age (or perhaps gender) determine whether or not a person will hold open a door for the next approaching person?
- How many are on their cell phone eating a meal?
- Do people take longer pulling out of a parking spot if someone is waiting?
- How many people go through a yellow light?
- How many people return their shopping carts to the cart area?

(Again, these are samples and you are encouraged to create your own)

2. Decide what you will observe and develop a **Theory and a hypothesis (the BIG IDEA and your 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. Remember you are **NOT TO SPY on OR Film** anyone! You are to ONLY make your observations in **SAFE PUBLIC PLACES**. Do not interfere or interact with anyone or let them know you are making observations... observe and take notes. **You are NOT to stage or create the conditions for your observations; this is a Naturalistic Observation.**

Suggested locations: Hastings' town parks, Chemka Pool, school district property, Hastings' Library, Main Street benches @ the VFW, your front porch or balcony, your camp or work (with permission from a supervisor).

4. Spend approximately 2+ hours making observations of the behavior and collecting data. The observation can be distributed over several sessions.

(keep track and record your time in your observational narrative)

5. Keep notes/an observer narrative: As an observer take notes during the session that can be referred back to when writing up your study. This is likely to include tally marks. These notes are likely to be messy but should make sense. These notes should be saved in their original form and to be presented upon request.

BEFORE you begin your study read and take notes on the following 2 articles (handwritten in you psychology notebook)

<https://www.verywellmind.com/introduction-to-research-methods-2795793>

<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-naturalistic-observation-2795391>

Make sure to include the use of key terms in your writeup.

Theory

Hypothesis

Variables

Independent

Depenant

Confounding

Summer Assignment Part 3: Read and take handwritten notes on the Prologue Chapter: The Story Of Psychology (PDF on classroom). Upload a jpeg of your notes to the google classroom assignment

To access the Prologue: The Story of Psychology PDF and receive additional course updates join google classroom [AP Psych '23-'24 Summer Reading](#)

Class code: [kqirsz2](#)

ALL PARTS ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE START OF CLASSES

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