

# AP Psychology Summer Assignments

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Please note that AP Psychology is an elective, college-level course with higher student expectations than most courses taken by high school students. AP Psychology also deals with course material and content at the “college” level, which at times may require maturity from student beyond which is typically expected at the high school level.

Students who come into the course with a background in some of the psychological concepts discussed during the year will have an academic advantage in the class. Prior knowledge allows students to speak intelligently on concepts and topics and have the potential for more success on the AP Psychology exam in the spring. Therefore you will be required to complete a two part summer reading project. This summer project will be 10% of your overall grade thus it is impossible to get an A in the class without completing these assignments. ***DUE DATE: (The first day of class)***

**\*\*Have an electronic copy saved for submission to turnitin.com**

**Assignment 1:** All future AP Psychology students are expected to read at least one (more than one is encouraged) of the following or similar psychology-related books before returning to school in August. Possible follow up activities that teachers might use at the beginning of the school year include journals, reports, and presentations.

After completing your summer reading assignment in AP Psychology, write an original paper of no more than four pages. The paper should be in double-spaced, 12-point Times-New Roman font, and have 1” margins on all sides. It should also provide detailed answer to the following questions:

- What was the book about? Who wrote it?
- What did you learn that you didn’t previously know?
- Why were you interested in reading this particular book?
- How does the book you read relate to psychology? Please explain.
- Do you agree or disagree with the author’s conclusions? Please explain and justify you answer.
- After reading the book, is there anything you would like to learn more about?

Remember to cite all you sources using APA (American Psychological Association) format.

**\*\*see below for list of possible books; if you would like to read a book not listed below you will need to get the book approved by me prior to beginning the project.**

## **Assignment 2: Chapter 1 Psychology’s history and approaches**

Psychological thought and theory is the basis and foundation for understanding the vast subject. Therefore, it is paramount for all psychology students to have a firm understanding of each theory and how it can be applied to both simple and complex psychological phenomenon. The purpose of this section of the summer assignment is to prepare students for the AP Psychology course and expose students to the theories.

Throughout the course you will be required to outline each chapter of the textbook we will be investigating. The outlines are a product of your individual creation that will require you to reflect on the information you have read and focus on the major topics within each chapter along with the influential research that has impacted each area of psychology. These outlines become excellent reference materials for the unit tests, midterm exam, final exam, and the AP exam.

**Read Chapter 1** in the class textbook. After reading the textbook, create a thorough outline for the chapter. The outline is an individual assignment that is to be in your own words, you may not work with another student. ***The outline will take on average about 2-3 hours to create.***

Typed, Times New Roman, 12 font

There is not an assignment length. As an AP student, you should be able to evaluate what information should be included in your outline and make a judgment on the appropriate length.

**Outline Guidelines:**

The outline should not be written in complete sentences.

The content should be phrased in your own words, not word for word from the textbook.

The following is the format that is to be followed for creating your outlines.

**Simply outlining the chapter definitions is unacceptable!**

Name
Date
Period
Chapter #: Title
I. Main Heading
A. Subheading
1. Information
a) Supporting details
i.) Supporting details

**Book List for Assignment 1:**

Following please find a list of books to appeal to a variety of psychological interests. Students can obtain books from local libraries or bookstores

**Experimental Psychology:**

- World as Laboratory: Experiments with Mice, Mazes, and Men by Rebecca Lemov
- Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century by Lauren Slater
- Experiments with People: Revelations From Social Psychology by Robert P. Abelson, Kurt P. Frey, Aiden Gregg, etc.
- Classic Case Studies in Psychology by Geoff Rolls
- Living Walden Two: B.F. Skinner's Behaviorist Utopia and Experimental Communities by Hilke Kuhlmann

**Neuropsychology:**

- Mind Wide Open: Your Brain and the Neuroscience of Everyday Life by Steven Johnson
- Brainwashing: The Science of Thought Control by Kathleen Taylor
- Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind by V.S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee
- Head Cases: Stories of Brain Injury and Its Aftermath by Michael Paul Mason
- Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters: Evolutionary Psychologists Explain Why We Do What We Do by A.S. Miller
- Head Case by Dennis Cass
- Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior by Ori Brafman and Rom Brafman

**Language, Intelligence and Cognition:**

- The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature by Steven Pinker
- The First Word: The Search for the Origins of Language by Christine Kenneally
- Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain by Oliver Sacks
- What is Intelligence?: Beyond the Flynn Effect by James R. Flynn
- IQ: A Smart History of a Failed Idea by Stephen Murdoch

**Sensation and Perception:**

- Hypnosis: Secrets of the Mind by Michael Streeter
- The Gift: Extraordinary Experiences of Ordinary People by Sally Rhine Feather
- The Sense of Being Stared At: And Other Unexplained Powers of the Human Mind by Rupert Sheldrake
- The Head Trip: Adventures on the Wheel of Consciousness by Jeff Warren
- Extraordinary Knowing: Science, Skepticism, and the Inexplicable Powers of the Human Mind by Elizabeth Lloyd Mayer

**Developmental Psychology:**

- Genie: a Scientific Tragedy by Russ Rymer
- As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl by John Colapinto
- See Jane hit: Why Girls Are Growing More Violent and What We Can Do About It by James Garbarino
- The Boy Who Was Raised As a Dog: And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's notebook By Bruce D. Perry
- The Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries about the Teenage Brain Tell Us about Our Kids by Barbara Strauch
- Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back by Norah Vincent
- Grand Theft Childhood: The Surprising Truth About Violent Video Games and What Parents can Do by Lawrence Kutner
- The Sexual Spectrum: Why We're All Different by Olive Skene Johnson

**Psychological Disorders:**

- Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia by Marya Hornbacher
- The Broken Mirror: Understanding and Treating Body Dysmorphic Disorder by Katharine A. Phillips
- Devil in the Details: Scenes from an Obsessive Girlhood by Jennifer Taig
- Divided Minds: Twin Sisters and Their Journey Through Schizophrenia by Pamela Spiro Wagner
- A Fractured Mind: My Life with Multiple Personality Disorder by Robert B. Oxnam
- Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood by Julie Gregory
- Compulsive Acts: A Psychiatrist's Tales of Ritual and Obsession by Elias Aboujaoude
- Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness by Christopher Lane
- Going Postal: Rage, Murder, and Rebellion: From Reagan's Workplaces to Clinton's Columbine by Mark Ames

**Social Psychology:**

- Why We Buy: The Science Of Shopping by Paco Underhill
- Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls by Rachel Simmons
- Emotions Revealed: Recognizing Faces and Feelings to Improve Communication and Emotional Life by Paul Ekman
- A World of Gangs: Armed Young Men and Gangsta Culture by John M. Hagedom
- The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil by Philip Zimbardo
- Fame: The Psychology of Stardom by Andre Ewans
- Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships by Janja Lalich
- Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens by Susan A. Clancy