

## AP Psychology Summer Work Portfolio

Dear AP Psychology Student:

Welcome to AP Psychology! I am glad that you have chosen to challenge yourself by taking this Class, and I am convinced it may be one of the best classes you will ever take! Please read the following important information regarding your textbook and summer reading assignment.

Check out a blue AP Psychology textbook from the Media Center (*Myers' Psychology for the AP Course, 3rd Edition*).

The following is your summer homework assignment. It is due on the **FIRST** day of school.

1. **Watch** this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLL0nBfq3oY> ("Introducing Psychology [AP Psychology Review Unit 1 Topic 1]" on the channel "Mr. Sinn") and **write the definitions** that pop up on the screen into your AP Psychology notebook.
2. **Read** Unit 2 (pages 37-77) of your textbook, *Myers' Psychology for AP by David G. Myers and C. Nathan Dewall, ISBN-13: 978-1-319-07050-2*.
  - a. **Define** all terms on page 74 (by hand, in your AP Psychology notebook). These will be due on the first day of class.
  - b. Be prepared for a **vocab quiz** on this material (above) on Day 1. (35 points)
3. Complete the **Summer Experiment Project** (75 points) on the following pages.
4. Be prepared to take a test over all of the above within first 2 weeks of school.

Late summer work will not be accepted. Failure to complete the Summer Experiment Project may result in removal from the course. You must start early in order to run a successful experiment!

Please contact me via email ([tphillippe@caschools.us](mailto:tphillippe@caschools.us)) if you have any questions. Enjoy your summer! I look forward to growing together in August.

Grace and Peace,

Mr. Troy Phillippe  
[tphillippe@caschools.us](mailto:tphillippe@caschools.us)  
AP Psychology

**Psychology** is the study of mental processes and human behavior. In order to study mental processes and keep track of human behavior, scientists design experiments to test cause and effect relationships between variables. As a requirement for entrance into this course, you are expected to **design** the experimental procedures of a study, **conduct** the study according to your experimental design, and **present** your findings during the AP Psychology Summer Symposium during the first two weeks of school. Please follow the steps outlined below to help you along the way:

## 1- Design Your Own Experiment

Choose from the list of experiments below. Some experiments allow you to work with 1 partner. We will refer to your work on these throughout the year when we reach each unit, so it's important to do a good job! All studies will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis:

1. <a href="#">Neural Pathways</a>	2. <a href="#">Frontal Lobes</a>
3. <a href="#">Sleep Deprivation</a>	4. <a href="#">Sensation &amp; Thresholds</a>
5. <a href="#">Perception &amp; Attention</a>	6. <a href="#">Problem-Solving Strategies</a>
7. <a href="#">Memory – Encoding Techniques</a>	8. <a href="#">Forgetting &amp; Interference</a>
9. <a href="#">Mindset's Effect on Achievement</a>	10. <a href="#">Motor Skills Across the Ages</a> (partner)
11. <a href="#">Cognitive Development - Conservation</a> (partner)	12. <a href="#">Social Development - Egocentrism</a> (partner)
13. <a href="#">Classical Conditioning</a>	14. <a href="#">Operant Conditioning</a> (partner)
15. <a href="#">Tough Choices – Cognitive Dissonance</a>	16. <a href="#">Personality Traits</a> (partner)
17. <a href="#">Motivational Difficulties</a> (partner)	18. <a href="#">Positive Emotions</a>
19. <a href="#">Coping Strategies</a>	20. ---

\*Doing the Template Experiment as-is will earn *up to* an 89%.

\*Putting your own twist on it, making it more high-school, or making it more real-life will make you eligible to earn *up to* a 100%.

## 2- Conduct the Experiment, Gather Your Data, & Build Your Poster

*You'll do the experiment step-by-step and gather your information as you go. When it's over, you'll incorporate it all together into a research poster based on these prompts:*

1. Explain how you met the ethics standards outlined on pg. 62 (be specific, especially about **informed consent**, **protection from unnecessary harm**, and **debriefing**);
  - 1.1. Obtain informed consent (or informed assent of subjects younger than 18 along with parent permission).
2. Follow the experimental design that you created (above- See Step 1) and record all of your data.
3. State the **hypothesis** of the research experiment.
4. State your **Operational definitions** for the **independent** and **dependent variable(s)**.

5. Make a list of possible **confounding variables** in the research experiment.
6. State the *design* of the study (the goal is to be clear enough that another researcher could read your instructions like a cookbook recipe and re-do your whole experiment just from your instructions -- this is known as **replication**).
  - 6.1. Describe the characteristics of the **sample** of participants in your experiment;
  - 6.2. State how your sample was selected (**random sampling** or **convenience sampling**);
  - 6.3. Explain if you think your sample is a **representative** sample and whether or not you believe your results can be **generalized**;
  - 6.4. Identify the **experimental** and **control** groups, including the process and purpose for assigning people to groups (such as **random assignment**), whether a **placebo** was used with the control group, and the effect of the placebo on the results.
  - 6.5. Summarize your conclusions based on your experiment and then propose a defensible claim based on these conclusions;
  - 6.6. Describe whether the study used **single-blind** or **double-blind** procedures to control for confounding variables like experimenter bias or the social desirability bias;
  - 6.7. State whether you measured your research with **qualitative** or **quantitative measuring** tools (qualitative is something like a face-to-face interview, quantitative is like a scale, survey, questionnaire, etc).
  - 6.8. Briefly examine how **representation** (culture, gender, ethnicity, economic class, etc) might have influenced your experiment (or the conclusions of your experiment);
  - 6.9. List the materials needed for anyone who wants to **replicate** your work;
7. Cite & Reference- Use the internet to find a research study related to your topic, summarize that research, and briefly (no more than 5 sentences) compare the findings of each.
8. Data Calculation: For your results, calculate **mean, median, mode, and range** for your dependent variable(s). You will also need to visually represent your data as a line graph, bar graph, or other form of data representation.

## Present the Experiment

9. Create a poster or tri-fold to display your findings and be prepared to present your research to your classmates.
10. Posters must contain:
  - 10.1. An Abstract of no more than 200 words (a good place to put everything from Step 6.1 - 6.5 above)
  - 10.2. Everything else from the Step 2 (including your data and analyses)
  - 10.3. **Visuals** (Graph of some sort) to represent your study and your findings.
  - 10.4. What other vocabulary concepts from Chapter 2 (Module 3-8) are applicable to your research? What other course topics do you predict this experiment will connect to? (skim the glossary or related chapters of your book)

[Click Here to see example posters](#) from previous years

You must obtain permission from Mr. Phillippe at [tphillippe@caschools.us](mailto:tphillippe@caschools.us) before you are allowed to conduct your experiment. Design it first, then double-check that you are allowed to do it!