

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

AP Psychology Course Description:

Advanced Placement Psychology is offered to the serious student who desires the challenge of a college-level course in high school. The course provides a scientific study of the origins and development of human behavior. The historical development of psychology and the major theories of psychology are presented, as well as the methods used to study behavioral questions. Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, and **extensive reading and writing are required**. Students are expected to take the advanced placement examination in May. College credit may be granted, subject to the requirements of the college or university. Advanced Placement Psychology is a year long elective credit course offered to students in grades eleven and twelve.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

“The study of psychology, I believe, enhances our abilities to restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding.” (David Myers, Author of Psychology, 7th edition)

Producing critical thinkers is the primary goal of our Advanced Placement Psychology course. What is a critical thinker? “Critical thinkers are open-minded. They can live with uncertainty and ambiguity. They enjoy mysteries, avoid easy compartmentalizations of the world, and resist black-white analyses of complex issues.” (Myers, Psychology) In the study of psychology, it sometimes seems there are more questions than answers. One way to get a handle on the vast amount of information explored in the course is to ensure each student possesses a foundation of psychological terminology.

Your summer assignment is to get a jump on the vocabulary utilized for relevant discussion in the course. You may use online resources, dictionaries, textbooks, or other sources at your local library to define the attached psychological terms. Many students are often surprised by the amount of biology and statistics present in the AP Psychology curriculum. I recommend purchase of the Oxford Dictionary of Psychology (Barnes & Noble carries these for about \$15). Completing the summer vocabulary list ensures there are no misconceptions about the nature of the course in September.

Psychology is truly a social science. Expect a test on day one that will use the vocabulary words that relate to the history of psychology, research, methods, and ethics.

Mrs. Becky Burnsworth: rebecca.burnsworth@vbschools.com
www.TeacherWeb.com/VA/GreenRunHighSchool/RLBurnsworth

Enjoy defining the terms. Have a good summer and I look forward to greeting each of you in the fall.