

AP Psychology Summer Assignment

Your summer assignment has four parts. You will not be able to do these assignments well if you wait until a few days before the due date to get started.

If you have any questions e-mail me at ptdworkin-cantor@cps.edu. I usually respond to e-mails within 24 hours, but will be out of town and without internet access in mid to late August so if you have questions and want quick responses ask before Aug 10th.

Part 1. Due July 20^h. Go to my AP Psychology blog at <http://cantorsapppsychologyblog.blogspot.com/> and read Assignment #1 carefully. You will be commenting on my Summer Assignment blog post which is currently up on the blog. In this assignment you will be learning about and responding to a famous or infamous piece of psychology research.

Part 2. Due August 20th. Read the book, Phineas Gage by John Fleishman and create a new comment on the Phineas Gage blog post on our class blog. Your comment will be a review of the book. A book review is a critical assessment of the book. You will share your opinions about the book and back up those opinions with descriptions of parts of the book. Be sure to describe the story and the style of the book. What did you think of it? What did you find most interesting? Why or why now would you recommend it to a friend? Follow the directions on the blog post which will be up by August 1st.

Part 3 Due the FIRST day of class Complete all the study-guide questions for “Phineas Gage” by John Fleischman in your AP Psych Notebook. (see study guide below)

Part 4. Due the First day of class: Read AND take Cornell Notes on chapter 1, Introducing Psychology, in the Bernstein psychology textbook. You will keep these notes all year and use them as you study for the AP Exam, so have a good notebook or binder that will last all year. The main thing to do when you take notes is ORGANIZE the information in such a way that it makes sense to you. Write questions and your own thoughts about the material as well as headings and subheadings in the left column of your notes. The more you can connect this material to information you already know or experiences you’ve had, the better you will learn and understand the material.

On the first day of class be prepared to discuss the Phineas Gage book as well as Chapter 1 of the Bernstein text.

It’s also a great idea to skim through the textbook to familiarize yourself with the topics we’ll be learning all year. Jot down questions you have on sticky-notes and put them in your book so you remember to ask them when we get to the unit.

Phineas Gage Study Guide

Directions: After you read each chapter answer the study guide questions in your AP Psychology Notebook. Some questions are asking about facts, some ask you summarize, other questions ask you to make connections or state opinions. Be sure to read each question carefully and answer appropriately in complete sentences.

Chapter 1 “Horrible Accident in Vermont” (Pp. 1-22)

1. When did Phineas’ lucky/unlucky accident happen? (include date, month and year, and even the time of day)
2. Describe the accident which changed Phineas’ life.
3. The author asks the reader to think about whether Phineas was lucky or unlucky. The fact that Phineas’ brain injury was an “open brain injury” was lucky in one way, but unlucky in another. Explain how and why the open nature of the wound was both lucky and unlucky.
4. Why did the railroad contractors decide not to hire Phineas back after his recovery?
5. At this point in your reading, do you think Phineas was lucky or unlucky? State your opinion and use evidence from the text to support your reasons for thinking so.

Chapter 2 “What we thought about how we thought” (Pp. 23-42)

1. What is “ether” and how has it changed surgery?
2. Make a T-chart or Venn diagram comparing the photo on p.25 with a modern operating room. (you may find a information about the modern operating room online or at the library)
3. What do the following parts of the brain do?

The brain stem	The cerebellum
The cerebral cortex	The limbic system
The corpus callosum	The frontal lobe
4. Draw and label the (right hemisphere) half brain diagram on page 28.
5. Which lobe did the tamping rod pass through during Phineas’ accident?
6. What is the fundamental unit or main building block of all living things? What is the fundamental unit of the brain?

7. Approximately how many neurons do the human brain and spinal cord contain all together?
8. Draw and label a neuron.
9. What is a synapse and what happens in the synapse?
10. Approximately how many synapses does each neuron have? Approximately how many synapses does a whole human brain have? Is that incredible, or what?
11. Explain what the “Whole Brainer” believed about the human brain. What do you think about their beliefs?
12. Explain what the “Localizers/Phrenologists” believed about the human brain. What do you think about their beliefs? Who do you agree with the most, Whole Brainers or Localizers?
13. Explain who was right, the Whole Brainers or the Localizers. Why? (Warning: this is a “trick question”)

Chapter 3 “Following Phineas Gage (Pp. 43-64)

1. What is epilepsy? Describe what an epileptic seizure is.
2. Back in 1860 how did the doctors try to treat Phineas’ seizures?
3. How did Phineas die?
4. How old was Phineas when he died?
5. Who was Paul Broca? What is Broca’s area?
6. Who was Carl Wernicke? What is Wernicke’s area?
7. Would you say Broca and Wernicke are “whole-brainers” or “Localizers?” Explain your answer.
8. Why do you think Dr. Harlow wanted to do an autopsy of Phineas’ brain after he died?
9. What did Phineas’ doctor mean when he wrote that, “Gage was no longer Gage,” after the accident. Explain how Phineas changed due to the accident. (P. 59)

Chapter 4 “Putting Phineas Together Again” (Pp. 65-75)

1. Who are Antonio and Hanna Damasio?

2. What types of injuries do their patients have? How do they get those injuries?
3. Why do the Damasios measure conductivity with a skin response machine?
4. How did Dr. Hanna Damasio “reconstruct” Phineas’ brain to discover exactly what parts of his brain were destroyed?
5. Write a brief review of the book. Describe the story and the style of the book. What did you think of it? What did you find most interesting? Would you recommend it to a friend? (this is the same as your blog post assignment)

If you have questions about any of the assignments please contact me with plenty of time before the deadline at ptdworkin-cantor@cps.edu. I will be out of town Aug 10-22 and may not have consistent access to e-mail during that time. Other than those dates I usually check my e-mail at least once per day.