

AP Psychology

Summer Assignment

Students taking AP Psychology next fall will be required to complete a summer assignment that will be **due upon your return to school** in the fall. Those of you who have already taken other advanced placement courses at Quaboag are aware that AP classes require a degree of effort that usually goes “above and beyond” what you may be used to you in your traditional classes. AP Psych is no exception. *Please read the AP contract* (attached to this assignment) so that you understand what will be expected of you, particularly if this is your first time taking an AP course.

AP Psych is a full year course that offers students the equivalent of a college introductory Psychology class. You will be required to put in more time and effort than you may be used to in your other classes, however, the rigor of this class will prepare you for college-level work. In addition, a qualifying score on the AP Exam will award college credits and exempt you from an introductory Psychology course at most colleges. Even if you do not plan to be a Psych major, many other majors require an introductory Psychology class.

For this class you will be required to complete nightly reading and/or writing assignments and you should plan to take 2-3 quizzes/week along with a test at the end of each unit (approx. every week and a half). It will quickly become apparent if you are not keeping up with the required coursework. Those who are not willing to put in the effort this class requires should reconsider taking this course. However, if you are a motivated student and are willing to challenge yourself, then you might find this class to be very rewarding. In addition to learning about the field of Psychology, you will also learn about how the human mind works, and maybe even learn something about yourself.

Your AP Psych textbook consists of 36 Modules that we must complete by early March in order to begin preparation for the AP exam which is administered the first week in May. **You will complete the first 3 Modules in your textbook over the summer** so that we will have adequate time to go over all of the necessary material prior to the exam. You will need to:

1. **Read Modules 1, 2, and 3 (approx. 50 pages and found on my website)**
2. **Complete the vocabulary, multiple choice, and short essay questions (*Writing about Psychology*) at the end of each module (pp. 15-16, 32-34, & 46-48 in online book). You are required to *write out the full definitions* for the vocabulary terms.**
3. **Be prepared to take a *quiz* each of the first three days back to school on one of the 3 modules that you read (module 1 on the first day, etc.)**
4. **There will also be a *test* on these Modules about a week after school begins.**
5. **The readings & written assignments are on my website – www.MrLj.weebly.com**

Additionally, there is a second *optional* assignment that you can complete if you so choose. This second assignment is *not required*, however, if you do this second assignment in its entirety, it will take the place of having to take the first test (on the first three modules). You will still be required to take the quizzes, but you would be exempt from the test. Alternatively, you can still take the test and I can count the assignment as an *extra* test grade that will help you boost your first quarter grade.

If you choose to complete the optional assignment then you will need to obtain your own copy of the book, ***Crazy***, by **Pete Earley** (Amazon.com often has good deals on used copies).

This book tells two stories. The first is about the author's son, who having been declared mentally ill, is thrown "headlong into the maze of contradictions, disparities, and Catch-22's that is America's mental health system." The second describes what Earley learned about the criminalization of the mentally ill during his yearlong investigation inside the psych unit at the Miami-Dade County jail.

Written Response:

The beginning of the book lists the nine "major players" in this story. Your assignment is to list and explain the role that each plays in the mental health system. For those that are mental health providers/advocates, you should describe what their philosophy is. What does each of them believe is the best way to solve the mental health problem in this country? What is each of them doing to work toward the solution?

For those that have been diagnosed with a mental illness, you should describe what their personal experience has been like. What is their view of the mental health system? Has it benefitted or failed them? What do you believe is the likely outcome for each of these people? (You should write approx. 200 words about each of the 9 people – approx. 7 typed pages total)

Lastly, write a critical review upon completion of the book (an additional 2-3 pages) that summarizes what you learned about the mental health system in this country. Most importantly, your last page should *include your thoughts on how you think we should change the system to better help those in need.*

You can either bring your written work in with you **on the first day of class** or you can email it to me/share it on google docs by the *first day of classes* (eljungberg@quaboagrsd.org). ***Both the mandatory and optional assignments will be due on the first day of school.***

I will regularly check my school email over the summer so you can reach me with any questions that you might have about the summer assignment or the course. Go to my website (www.mrLj.weebly.com) and **click on the AP Psych link in the top right corner to access the mandatory summer reading as well as to check out other course materials.**

Have a great summer! ~ Mr. Ljungberg

AP Psychology

I do not want to discourage anyone from taking AP Psychology, however, there are a few important things you need to know before you begin the course.

1. For those of you who have already taken other Psychology courses at Quaboag, you should be aware that *AP Psych* is very different from *Abnormal Psychology* and/or *Psych in Film*. There are a wide range of topics covered in 14 different units. Some of the topics covered are the history of psychology, research methods, statistics, memory, personality, and the brain and nervous system. Abnormal psychology only makes up 1 of the 14 units we will be studying. If you are just expecting a more in depth version of *Abnormal Psych* then you might be disappointed.
2. You may have gotten an “A” in *Abnormal Psych* and/or *Psych in Film*, however, AP Psych is a much more challenging course. It is not uncommon for a student to get an “A” in *Abnormal*, but struggle to get a “B” in AP. Be prepared to do a lot of independent reading and to take frequent (2 or 3 times a week) quizzes and tests.
3. You will be required to complete a summer reading assignment (see attached information). **You will also be required to sign and return the AP Student Contract on the back of this page at the beginning of the school year.**

Quaboag Regional Middle High School

Advanced Placement Student Contract

The AP Program at Quaboag Regional Middle High School is intended to challenge and prepare students for the rigors of college. AP classes are assigned a higher weight to the G.P.A. scale, assist students with earning college credit, and strengthen student transcripts during the college admissions process. In order to receive these added academic benefits, it is expected that students will subscribe to the following understandings:

- I understand that the academic rigor and teacher expectations will be higher than that of other classes
- I understand that, if it is required for my particular AP class(es), I must obtain and fully complete the summer assignments which are distributed in June by the content teacher(s),
- I understand that I must be self-motivated to study and prepare over and above scheduled class time (including assignments over break periods)
- I understand that I will be required to take a mock exam prior to the actual AP exam.
- I understand that I must register for and take the AP Exam in early May
- I understand that I must pay for the exam fee in advance (approx. \$95/exam)

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

As the parent/guardian, I will support the faculty and staff of Quaboag Regional Middle High School to assist my child in reaching his/her fullest potential. I recognize that the AP program demands heightened rigor and expectations that are necessary to achieve exemplary results.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

•Return this signed form at the beginning of the school year