Welcome to AP Psychology!!!  I am so excited to get to know you!  This is a challenging college preparatory class and you will work hard, so be prepared!!!  Hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication will allow you to be prepared to take the Psychology AP exam and earn college credit!  You will not be alone, we will work together to unlock the mysteries of the mind and human behavior!  You will begin to understand human behavior, including your own, in a whole new way!

To prepare for the amazing new school year, I have a couple of summer assignments for you!  Please do not put these off!  How awkward and painful it would be to start the new school year at such a disadvantage!  All assignments are due on the first full day of class!

Here is my info:

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Reading Assignment:
Ten Days in a Mad-House  Author: Nellie Bly  $1.99-$3.00 ebook  $5.38 Barns and Nobel
Answer the following questions (must be typed)
1.  Describe the reason the author gave for doing this “experiment”.
2.  Choose 2 examples of the treatment of the patients in the Mad-House and the author’s reaction to them.
3.  What difference did the writing of this book have on the conditions of the Mad-House?

Assignment #1:

Assignment #1 - Famous Psychologists – Power Point format-printed out, 6 slides per page, and due the first full day of class September 10, 2015

For this part of your summer assignment, you will be creating a detailed reference guide that highlights the key psychologists you will be analyzing this year. To do this, you will create a PowerPoint presentation that provides detailed information on each famous psychologist. Create 2-3 slides for each psychologist that details the following:

- Psychologist name and year they were born & died (if applicable)
- What are they famous for, a description of their major discoveries, theories, or studies & results
- Explain their psychological approach (i.e. behavioral, cognitive, evolutionary, etc.)
- Image of the psychologists
Assignment #2

Approaches to Psychology (Bring typed assignment the first full day of class)
In a typed format:

• Give a summary of each approach
• Psychologists associated with the approach
• How the approach is used today

1. Psychoanalytic
2. Behaviorist
3. Cognitive
4. Humanistic
5. Biological (Neuroscience)
6. Evolutionary (Darwinian)
7. Socio-Cultural (Sociocultural)

Assignment #3

Article Review (Typed questions due first day of class)

Find an article that applies to psychology that interests you and read it. Here are some sources: Due first full day of class
http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/index.php
http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/mind_brain/psychology

1. Summarize the article. The summary should identify the topic and provide enough specific information so that the reader understands the issue involved.

2. What is the opinion/perspective/viewpoint of the author? Does the title influence the reader's views?

3. How does this issue of findings brought up in the article affect the field of psychology or human kind? Keep in mind the overall goal of psychology is to improve the quality of human life through a deeper understanding of how the human body works and why humans behave a certain way.

4. Does the author use research to support their claim? If so, describe the research?

5. Do you agree with the author's opinion? Explain why or why not.

Assignment #4

Using a movie or book, (it can be new to you or one you are currently reading/watching, or have read/watched) discuss the main characters and/or plot line in terms of psychological disorders and/or treatment. (Some of the movies/books portray several characters struggling with a disorder or multiple disorders; you need to focus only on the one or two that most interests you.) After finishing the film or book, do a bit of research on the disorder or disorders you chose. With this information, address the following questions in a typed format (12 font).

1. What psychological disorder was illustrated in this film/book? Did the person meet the criteria for “abnormal” in this portrayal?

2. What symptoms of mental illness did you see in the movie/book? After considering typical symptoms and behaviors for this disorder, determine the extent to which you believe this was a realistic portrayal of this disorder.

3. Were any causal factors for the character's disorder suggested in the film/book? If so, which ones?

4. What types of treatment, if any, did the person in the film/book receive? Provide specific examples. Based on what you've learned, is this form typical for individuals with this disorder? Why or why not?

5. What impact did the person's disorder have on others in his/her life? Do you think the impact was realistically portrayed? Why or why not?

6. After viewing the movie/book, what do you think it would be like to live with this mental illness?

7. What was your overall reaction to the movie and how mental illness was portrayed?
REMEMBER-ONLY READ OR WATCH MOVIES YOUR PARENTS WOULD APPROVE FOR YOU, DO NOT USE THIS ASSIGNMENT TO GET AROUND THEIR RULES! You can google books/movies good for AP psychology to get some ideas.

DO YOUR OWN WORK!! THIS SHOULD BE FUN AND INTERESTING!!! PLAGARISM WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF POINTS. Due first full day of class.

Assignment 5: Due on the first full day of school

This is an exercise that requires you use your observation skills. During the summer, pick a time and place to simply observe human interaction. It can be at a park, at home, the pool, a store, a sporting event, the zoo, band camp, boating, in line at Cedar Point…anywhere there are people. I know that Covid19 may limit what you can do-so follow all the guidelines. It must be a safe environment for you and others. For at least 15 minutes, observe quietly the people around you. DO NOT TAKE VIDEO OR PICTURES, DO NOT INTERACT IN ANY WAY! STOP THE OBSERVATION IF IT IS MAKING ANYONE NERVOUS OR THEY APPROACH YOU. THIS IS SIMPLY PEOPLE WATCHING-NOT VOYERISM! Simply watch what is going on around you. You may take notes as you observe. After your observation, complete these questions in a typed format.

1. What is the location of your observation? Describe it in detail.
2. As you are watching, focus in on a specific group you will watch more closely. How did you make your decision?
3. Describe the people you are observing: sex, age, possible relationship connections with each other, physical descriptions.
4. What is happening? Give details and clues you used to decide.
5. Does their behavior seem normal to you? Explain.
6. Discuss the emotional states of each of the people you observe, are they acting or reacting within social norms?
7. Is there any individual that stands out to you? Explain why.
8. How did you feel about doing this observation? Were you comfortable or was it kind of creepy?
9. Did anyone “catch” you doing your observation? How did you know?
10. Remember a time you were with friends and family and someone watching you might have been confused about what was going on. Describe the situation and why it might have been confusing to a passing observer.

HAVE A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER. GET READY TO HAVE AN AMAZING YEAR IN AP PSYCHOLOGY!!!!