Welcome to AP Psychology. Your Summer Assignment requires on-line access and/or library resources. If you cannot access the internet from home, all public libraries in Virginia Beach have numerous computers for public use.

Answer the following questions in short-essay format (3-7 sentences, depending on the complexity of the subject) in your own words. There are many online sources you can use; just be sure they are academic/scholarly in nature. This assignment may appear overwhelming at first glance, but it is actually fairly easy and brief. The assignment also addresses some of the major researchers, theories and concepts we will study in the coming year, so it will prove useful to you.

***This assignment must be hand-written and will be due within the first two weeks of class (this gives last-minute enrollees a chance to complete the assignment). It will be your first Test Grade.

I. What is psychology? Elaborate beyond a “textbook” definition.

II. Identify all 15 of the following important figures in psychology and describe their most significant contributions:

Albert Bandura  Erik Erikson  Sigmund Freud  William James
Abraham Maslow  Ivan Pavlov  B.F. Skinner  Jean Piaget
Carl Rogers  John Watson  Wilhelm Wundt  Philip Zimbardo
Howard Gardner  Lawrence Kohlberg  Charles Darwin

III. Describe each of the 8 main perspectives within psychology listed below and give an example of the type of research a person might do within that perspective:

Neuroscience  Evolutionary  Biological-Genetic  Psychodynamic
Behavioral  Cognitive  Social-Cultural  Humanistic

IV. Describe the “Nature/Nurture” debate as it applies to psychology.

V. Sign up for AP Psychology Schoology 2019-20 Summer Classroom Code -
From this site you will be able to contact me with any questions in regard to the AP Psychology Summer Assignment and/or the class. Also I will regularly post updates and information in regard to our class and the upcoming school year.

Good Luck and I look forward to hearing from you,

Shawn M. Bolling
Please read the information about this AP course and discuss with a parent/guardian your readiness to be an AP Psychology student. If you are ready to commit to the rigors of an AP course, return this sheet, signed by both you and your parent/guardian, on the first day of class.

**AP Psychology is a challenging college-level class.** The ability and willingness to read every night is essential for success in this class. You will need to read with full comprehension of the material covered; there is not enough time to cover every term/concept/theory in class, so you will be responsible for learning information independently. **Like a college-level course, AP Psychology is "self-guided" and requires a great deal of self-discipline regarding study habits.**

The following accomplishments have differentiated students who are successful in AP Psychology from those who struggle. They are not, however, prerequisites:

- Completion of Biology with an A or B average
- Completion of Psychology I/II with an A or B average OR a strong science background (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Biology) OR completion of AP Statistics
- Enrollment in Honors English, AP English, or Dual Enrollment English
- Strong reading ability
- Ability to write in a concise and clear manner

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at

**smbollin@vbschools.com**

Please read and sign below:

I understand the nature of the AP Psychology class. I believe I possess the skills and am willing to devote the time necessary to succeed in this class.

**Student Signature**  

I understand the nature of the AP Psychology class. I believe my son/daughter possesses the skills and is willing to devote the time necessary to succeed in this class.

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

***Return this sheet with your summer assignment the first day of class***