

Ms. Parr, Mr. O'Shea
Advanced Placement Psychology
2009-2010 Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read **ONE** of the following and summarize the main points of the book in a few paragraphs. Specifically address the strength of the author's argument, including a discussion of the reliability of the author and the evidence he cites. Then give your opinion of the book as a whole. This must be typed and double-spaced. Both are available at local bookstores and public libraries.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2005. (ISBN 0-316-17232-4)

OR

LeGault, Michael R. *Th!nk: Why Crucial Decisions Can't Be Made in the Blink of an Eye*. New York: Threshold Editions, 2006. (ISBN 1-416-52378-2)

2. Read the following book and keep a **personal dictionary** of any new words that you encounter in your reading. I am expecting a minimum of fifteen words in your personal dictionary. This can be handwritten or typed. This is also available at local bookstores and public libraries.

Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985. (ISBN 0-684-85394-9) (Available at local bookstores and public libraries.)

3. After reading Sacks' book, respond to the following (typed and double-spaced):

From "On the Level"

"The old man suddenly became intent, his brows knitted, his lips pursed. He stood motionless, in deep thought, presenting the picture that I love to see: a patient in the actual moment of discovery – half-appalled, half-amused – seeing for the first time exactly what is wrong and, in the same moment, exactly what there is to be done. This is the therapeutic moment." (Sacks 72)

What is the situation that this paragraph is describing?

What is another "therapeutic moment" from the book?

From "The President's Speech"

What disorders were described in the chapter titled, "The President's Speech?" What is ironic about the patients' reactions to the President's speech?

From "Witty Ticky Ray"

The chapter, "Witty Ticky Ray," brings to light the phenomenon of a disorder seeming to become exponentially more common once it has been identified. Can you think of any current disorders (within the last ten to fifteen years) that have suddenly "boomed" with the publicity of their existence?

Respond to Ray's description on pg. 101.

From “Reminiscence”

After reading the chapter, “Reminiscence,” what are your thoughts on the composition of memories? Are they physical? Are they mental? Is there a definable difference between the two?

Respond to the quotation from T. Alajouanine on page 144.

From “Rebecca”

In the chapter, “Rebecca,” Sacks says, “She had come apart, horribly, in formal testing, but now she was mysteriously ‘together’ and composed.” What does he mean by this? How does this chapter inform your understanding of psychological testing, both in its use as a tool and its limitations?

OPTIONAL: To be fully prepared at the beginning of the semester, We also recommend buying the Study Guide and the textbook so that you can read and complete the Chapter Quizzes for Chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 1 has detailed explanations of the statistics used in Psychological studies, as well as the different types of psychological research. Chapter 2 is often a challenge for students, as there is a lot of scientific information you must know about the brain, nervous system, and how neurons function, so it can be very helpful to spend some time looking over this chapter. If you want to choose one to buy, buy the Study Guide, since it has worksheets and practice tests and you may want to write directly in it. Keep in mind, however, that this is OPTIONAL. You do NOT have to buy your own textbook or study guide.

Myers, David G. *Psychology, 8th Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers, 2006. (ISBN 0-716-76428-8)

Straub, Richard. *Study Guide to accompany Myers: Psychology, Eighth Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers, 2006. (ISBN 0-716-72800-1)