

# AP Psychology Summer Assignment

## Part I: The Perspectives

For each approach listed below, complete the following *HANDWRITTEN* on notebook paper:

1) Describe each of the 7 perspectives of psychology, listed below. Apply these, using a real-life example.

2) List prominent psychologists associated with each perspective.

- Psychoanalytic
- Behavioral
- Humanistic
- Cognitive
- Biological
- Socio-cultural
- Evolutionary

3) Research and read up on the impact of philosophy and biology on the field of psychology.

*You will have a quiz Week 1 of the school year on this information, so best to start learning it now!*

## Part II: Naturalistic Observation Lab Report

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behavior. This summer, you will get a taste of how the scientific method is used to learn about behavior. One important research method used by psychologists is naturalistic observation. I do not expect you to design the perfect naturalistic observation. However, I do expect you to be able to create a well-written lab report that conveys what happened during your observation, identifies difficulties that arose during your study, and discusses potential solutions for those problems. Carefully follow the directions and rubric while writing your report. Attach the rubric to your lab report and turn it in on the first day of school.

## Directions:

1. Pick a behavior that you can easily observe many individuals demonstrating. Some potential behaviors may include things people do at a mall, the beach, a restaurant, a sporting event, or any other public place you find yourself in this summer. Your location must be safe and ethical, and you must have your parents' or guardians' approval. *Note: Safety is key during this activity. Also note that you should not be interacting with the subjects that you are observing - this is purely observing a natural situation.*
2. Before beginning your observation, form a question about the behavior. Some examples might be:
  - “Do more men or women order junk food?”
  - “Are men or women more aggressive while watching sporting events?”
  - “How many people are texting or on a cell phone while waiting in a line?”
  - “Does age determine whether or not a person will hold open a door for the next approaching person?”

Once you have your question, form your hypothesis, or expectation of what will happen; for instance “More men than women will order junk food at the mall food court.”

3. Select your location and decide exactly how you will observe and collect data unobtrusively. Create an operational definition of the variable(s) you are focusing on. For instance, if you were focusing on whether more men or women order junk food, you would need to precisely define what junk food is so that you would know what to count and what not to count, and to also to allow for the future replication of your study.
4. Spend **at least one hour** observing the behavior and collecting data. Use a formalized list, such as a checklist, to keep track of behaviors. This will be attached to your final report.
5. Create a lab report documenting your study. There is no required length; what is most important is that all of the following components are fully and clearly addressed. ***You must title each section based on the outline below. The title must be in bold and centered on the page.*** Also, scientific writing is very different from writing you have done in other social studies classes. The purpose is to convey what you expected, what you did, and what you found as clearly and efficiently as possible. Cut to the chase- be concise, tight, clean, and specific. No fluff.

**Introduction:** Write a paragraph about the question you set out to study and what you expected to find. Include your logic for the predictions you made. The last sentence should be your hypothesis. For example “My hypothesis was that more men than women would hold the door open for the next person.” A hypothesis is always a statement and never a question.

**Methods:** Write a few paragraphs about your method. There should be enough detail in this section for someone to replicate your study, should they wish to do so. For instance, you would include the location of your observation, who exactly you observed (for example, 30 adults between the ages of 20-45), how long you observed for, what you did to remain unobtrusive, and how you recorded your data and all operational definitions.

**Results:** Write a paragraph presenting your data. You do not need to do any complicated statistics, but you need to include simple descriptive statistics such as mean, median, mode, a scatterplot, pie chart or any other visual to help the reader understand the data. Which descriptive statistical techniques used will depend on the specifics of your observation. Review online resources if you need a refresher on mean, median, and mode or any other mathematical concept - don't be afraid, math in AP Psych is very simple math.

**Discussion:** This will be the largest and most important part of your write-up. Nothing is going to go as planned and many confounding variables will pop up during your study. Afterwards, you will think of many ways you could have done better. It is also perfectly acceptable if your hypothesis is proven wrong- all you need to do is try to explain why it might have been proven wrong. This section is your chance to discuss all of that. Discuss what you think the data tells you about your question, what additional questions were raised during the study, what confounding variables were present, what would you have done differently, and why.

***Size 12 TNR, double-spaced is REQUIRED***

*If there is vocabulary in these directions that you do not understand, look it up. As an AP student, the onus is on you to research things you do not understand and try to figure them out.*

## **Naturalistic Observation Lab Report *EXAMPLE***

### **Introduction**

Use the following questions to help guide your writing:

- What is your research question? (Who uses a speakerphone in public?)
- Why are you interested in this question?
- Tell me what you expect to see
- Last, state your hypothesis. This is a STATEMENT (I think women use their speakerphone more than men)

### **Methods**

Use the following questions to help guide your writing:

- Where did you do your observations? Tell me a little bit about this location. What time of day?
- Who did you observe? Men women, old, young, etc.
- How long did you observe for? From what time to what time?
- How did you remain unnoticed? Did anyone see you recording their behavior? If so, what happened?
- How did you record it? Did you write it in a notebook, create a checklist, make a chart, etc.? Remember, these results get attached to your report.
- How did you measure your variables? For example, if you said teenagers use their phones a lot more than adults, what is a lot more? 5 minutes? 10? An hour? What's an adult? 20 year old, 40 year old, etc.? Of course, you will have to approximate ages, but that's OK.

### **Results**

Use the following questions to help guide your writing:

- What were the results? How did you come up with the results? Was your hypothesis correct?
- What was the average number of people that (fill in your behavior here)?
- If it applies, was there a difference among genders, ages, etc.?

## Discussion

Use the following questions to help guide your writing:

- What variables may cause your research to be flawed? Maybe where you observed or when you observed? Did you possibly make a mistake approximating ages? Were the people you watched different or all the same? Did you get a lot of results or only a few? Was what you were researching too specific or too general? How could you improve your research study if you had to do it again?
- If your hypothesis was wrong, WHY was it wrong?
- What does all this data tell you about your question?
- What do you think your observations tell you about people in our society?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Naturalistic Observation Rubric

*(This must be attached to your lab report)*

	<b>Good 3 pts</b>	<b>Fair 2 pts</b>	<b>Poor 1pt</b>
Subject Description	Provides a detailed description of the subject that includes five or more specific physical descriptors to include height, weight, gender, attire, and age.	Provides a basic description of the subject that includes at least five physical descriptors to include height, weight, gender, attire, and age.	Provides a basic description of the subject that includes less than five physical descriptors to may include height, weight, gender, attire, and age.
Physical Environment	Provides a detailed description of the observation environment that includes at least four specific environmental descriptors.	Provides a basic description of the observation environment that includes two or more specific environmental descriptors.	Provides a generic description of the observation environment that includes less than four environmental descriptors.
Observed Behavior	Provides a detailed description of the behavior observed that includes specific qualitative descriptors.	Provides a basic description of the behavior observed that includes generic descriptors.	Provides a basic description of the behavior observed that fails to use qualitative descriptors.
Data Reporting	Provides an accurate number or time during a specified period of time in an appropriate format.		Does not provide an accurate number or time during a specified period of time in an appropriate format.
Analysis	Provides a detailed analysis of one or more plausible explanations of why the observed behavior occurred.	Provides a generic analysis of one or two explanations of why the observed behavior occurred.	Provides a minimal analysis of one or two explanations of the observed behavior.
Grammar	Consistently uses correct rules of grammar including language that is reserved for college level classes.	Generally uses correct rules of grammar including language that is reserved for high school level classes.	Inconsistently uses rules of grammar including language that is reserved for high school level classes.
Sentence/ Paragraph Structure	Writes in complete sentences and has paragraphs in appropriate form.	Writes occasionally using sentence fragments or run-on sentences with paragraphs that are short or incomplete.	Essay has more than one or two sentence fragments and/or run-on sentences with incomplete or inappropriate paragraph structure.
Spelling	Paper has one or fewer spelling errors.	Paper has two to four spelling errors.	Paper has more than four spelling errors.
Format	Followed directions for the formal presentation of papers on this particular assignment to include administrivia and all necessary		Did not follow directions for the formal presentation of this particular assignment.

	items numbered.		
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**Comments:**

**Final Grade:**