

AP Psychology Summer Assignment 2017

“You Are Not So Smart” by David McRaney

Humans like to think that we are rational and logical beings, however decades of research in cognitive psychology has proven otherwise. The book, “You are Not so Smart” by David McRaney explores the failings of memory, how we do things without having a clue why we are doing them, and the narratives we construct and tell ourselves to make us feel better about our choices and decisions.

This book is a fabulous summer read for many reasons. First of all, we will be learning about every single concept presented in the book at some point this year. Second of all, each chapter is very short and engaging. Best of all, as you read, your mind will be flooded with memories and personal experiences that connect with the concepts and stories presented in the book.

Your summer assignment is divided into 4 parts:

1. Keeping in the Know

- a. Add our class google site to your favorites tab. This is critical. I will be posting assignments, links, videos, and notices using Google. It will also be how you can access a shared file of important class notes and assignments for each unit. You will find copies of everything you need for the summer assignment on the Summer Assignment tab.
<https://sites.google.com/discoveryhighschool.net/msjapppsych>
- b. Join my class remind by downloading the remind app and entering the code “msjapppsych17” or texting the code “@msjapppsych17” to the phone number 81010.

2. Chapter 14 “Social Psychology” Reading Guide

- a. Yes, we are starting with the last chapter. That’s because your summer book contains many social psychology concepts. Read Chapter 14 of your text and complete the reading guide that is uploaded on the Summer Assignment tab of the google site. A scanned copy of the textbook reading will also be posted.

3. You Are Not So Smart by David McRaney

- a. There are many very important AP Psychology concepts presented in the book. Complete the attached chart where you define each concept using your own words and provide a specific example from the book or your own life. You can type your responses using the template I post to the google site, or you can handwrite it. Please make sure your handwriting is legible.
- b. Choose one of the quotes on the next page. Write a 12 point, Calibri-font, typed, double spaced essay in which you use five concepts from the book to support the quote. For each concept be sure to:
 - give a summary of the concept and related research/researchers that explored/developed the concept. Note: you may need to go beyond the book to summarize the related research and researchers depending on what concepts you choose.
 - tell how it supports the quotes through specific examples (from the book as well as your own)

Quotes:

- *“THE MISCONCEPTION: You are a rational, logical being who sees the world as it really is. THE TRUTH: You are as deluded as the rest of us, but that’s OK, it keeps you sane.” -David McRaney*
- *“You have a deep desire to be right all of the time and a deeper desire to see yourself in a positive light both morally and behaviorally. You can stretch your mind pretty far to achieve these goals.” – David McRaney*
- *“When you need something to be true, you will look for patterns; you connect the dots like the stars of a constellation. Your brain abhors disorder” –David McRaney*
- *You are always explaining to yourself the motivations for your actions and the causes to the effects in your life, and you make them up without realizing it when you don't know the answers. Over time, these explanations become your idea of who you are and your place in the world. They are yourself... You are a story you tell yourself.” – David McRaney*
- *“You are a liar by default, and you lie most to yourself. If you fail, you forget it. If you win, you tell everyone.” – David McRaney*
- *“Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.”- George Carlin*

Checklist: This is what you will hand in on the first day of school.

1. Reading Notes for Chapter 14 of your text (25 points)
2. “You Are Not So Smart” Concept Chart (75 points)
3. “You Are Not So Smart” Essay (100 Points)

Summer Assignment Total: 200 points

Contacting Me: If you need help or are confused about anything this summer, you can chat with me on remind between the hours of 8am-6pm or e-mail me at alyssa_johnson@discoveryhighschool.net.

Name: _____

You Are Not So Smart Concept Chart

Concept	Definition (1 point)	Specific Example (1 point)
Priming		
Confabulation		
Confirmation Bias		
Hindsight Bias		
The Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy		
Normalcy Bias		
Introspection Illusion		
The Availability Heuristic		
The Bystander Effect		
The Dunning-Kruger Effect		
The Just World Fallacy		
Subjective Validation		

Concept	Definition	Specific Example
Cult Indoctrination		
Groupthink		
The Affect Heuristic		
Self Serving Bias		
The Spotlight Effect		
Catharsis		
The Misinformation Effect		
Conformity		
Social Loafing		
The Illusion of Transparency		
Learned Helplessness		
The Anchoring Effect		
Self-Handicapping		

Concept	Definition	Specific Example
Self-Fulfilling Prophecies		
The Representativeness Heuristic		
Expectation		
The Illusion of Control		
The Fundamental Attribution Error		