



**Advanced Placement Psychology**  
**2020 Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Ms. Jeanblanc**

1. During the summer, please read **Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century** by Lauren Slater. You should be able to find it at the public library. You will find that each chapter of the book is about an influential study in twentieth century psychology. By the time you have finished reading each chapter, you should understand the basic setup of the experiment presented. In addition, you should have an understanding of why each study (and psychologist who carried out the study) was significant in psychology. In many cases, the author addresses how a study relates to some larger issue(s) and/or debate(s) in psychology (e.g. ethics, free will versus determinism etc.). You should also be reading for an understanding of how each study relates to the larger issues that the author may talk about in the chapter.
2. After you read the book, answer the questions on the next page.
  - The answers to the questions are due in the third week of school at our first class meeting of the week.
  - Your answers should be in complete sentences and each answer should be approximately 2-3 well-developed paragraphs.
  - This will be worth 30 points of your first quarter AP Psychology grade. (2 points for each lettered part of each question) To get full credit for your answers, you need to answer all parts of the question accurately and you need to be as specific as possible. Your answers should reveal that you thoughtfully and actively read the book.

**Please remember...**

1. This is an individual -- **NOT** -- a group assignment. Success in AP Psychology depends on your individual ability to actively read and understand college-level material and do college-level work.
2. Before you turn in their written assessment, you will be required to sign the South County Statement of Integrity. "As a student of integrity at South County High School, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment. My signature is a declaration that the work here is mine alone." The assignment should be **100%** your own work.
3. **Failure to abide by any of the written assessment guidelines will result in a 0 on this assessment.**

If you have any questions about this assignment, please feel free to contact the teacher by email at [Sara.Jeanblanc@fcps.edu](mailto:Sara.Jeanblanc@fcps.edu). Please do not wait until the last minute to begin the assignment or to receive clarification about the assignment. You are an AP student: lesson #1 – Do not procrastinate.

**Questions: Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century**

**Directions:** Please answer the questions below. To get full credit for your answers, you need to answer all parts of the question accurately and you need to be as specific as possible. Your answers should reveal that you thoughtfully and actively read the book.

1. In the first chapter of the book, Slater writes about Skinner's research and some of the practical applications of B.F. Skinner's research.
  - (a) Briefly describe Skinner's research and why it was significant.
  - (b) Describe three practical applications of Skinner's research that are discussed in the text.
  
2.
  - a) Describe the setup of the Milgram study. What did Milgram find?
  - b) Why were his findings significant?
  
3.
  - a) Briefly describe the setup of the Rosenhan study and what the study showed.
  - b) Why do some think that it was a blow to psychiatry?
  
4.
  - a) How did Darley and Latane set up their experiment to mimic the Genovese murder?
  - b) What did their experiment show? Include an explanation of the bystander effect in your answer.
  
5.
  - a) "Quieting the Mind," is about Louis Festinger's concept of cognitive dissonance. Explain what cognitive dissonance is. Then, describe how cognitive dissonance applies to at least one example presented in the chapter (e.g. the cult, Festinger's money experiment, or Festinger's experiment involving loyalty to a fraternity, or the drowning of Audrey Santo)
  
6.
  - a) In "Monkey Love," what did Harry Harlow learn about attachment? In your answer, be sure to describe what Harlow found was important for attachment and what he found was unimportant for attachment.
  - b) Harry Harlow's research was controversial in the field of psychology. Some point to the many practical applications of his research. Others think his research should not have been carried out. Describe the applications of the research and describe why it is criticized. In your opinion, was the research worth it?
  
7.
  - a) Describe "Rat Park" and what it would allow researchers to investigate.
  - b) Then, compare the behaviors of rats kept in cages to the rats put in "Rat Park." Could the rats resist addiction? After they were addicted, could they overcome their addiction when they were put in their cages or in "Rat Park?"
  
8.
  - a) Describe Elizabeth Loftus' "Lost in the Mall" experiment. Be sure to include in your answer what Loftus was trying to investigate, a description of the experimental setup, and what she concluded as a result of the experiment.
  
9.
  - a) After reading all the chapters, what are reactions? What did you learn? Was there anything that surprised you? Explain your answers.