"What is a Psychological 'Perspective?"

AP Psychology Summer Assignment 2019

Over the course of the year we will be studying a number of different "perspectives" in the field of psychology. A psychological perspective is a school of thought or a philosophy which would guide someone's interpretation of an individual's mental illness or behavior. Take the subject of aggression, for example. Someone working from a "biological" perspective would focus on how the brain and nervous system are working in combination to produce the aggressive behavior. Another researcher working from a "behavioral" perspective would instead investigate how aspects of the subject's environment have reinforced, supported, or encouraged aggressive actions. Yet another psychologist working in a "psychodynamic" (Freudian) perspective would seek to understand how the subject's aggression is rooted in past experiences and unconscious motives. This assignment is designed to familiarize you with a number of those perspectives we will be studying in this course.

There are 2 parts of the assignment and both must be uploaded to turnitin.com by September 5th. This will be worth a *50 point project for your first quarter grade*. All work must be uploaded to Turnitin.com . Please email before school starts with any questions vguiliano@klschools.org.

To upload, you will need to enroll yourself in our class on turnitin.com. You will be uploading future class assignments here as well.
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PART I – 35 Points What are the 7 perspectives?

Research the seven assigned psychological perspectives (listed below) using either print or online sources of your choosing. If using websites, be sure they are valid and trustworthy. You must cite each of your sources in APA (American Psychological Association) format. Help with proper APA formatting may be found at this link. For each perspective, be sure you:

A. Present the definition of each of the seven perspectives found in your source(s). This will be your "official" definition.
B. Define each of the perspectives again, but this time in your own original words (assignment will be uploaded to Turnitin.com). Don't worry about using technical language. Just do your best to express your understanding of that school of thought. *2 Points each*
C. List any significant psychologists associated with these perspectives that you come across in your research; a. Cognitive b. Humanistic c. Psychodynamic d. Behavioral *1 Point each*
D. In your own original wording, write out an example of how each perspective might apply to a real-life problem or situation. This will likely require you to engage in a bit of research in order to fully understand that school of thought. Don't worry about 100% accuracy. I'm just looking to see that you have a basic understanding of the applications of these schools of thought. **2 Points each**

***See below for an example of how each of your seven entries should be structured.

<u>Behavioral Genetics</u> (*you aren't assigned this one*)

OFFICIAL DEFINITION: A field of study which focuses on the role of genetics in human behavior. It examines behavior patterns which are familial and hereditary in origin. It studies behavior traits and their genetic mechanism. Also called behavioral genetics.

SOURCE: What is Behavior Genetics? (n.d.). In *Psychology Dictionary*. Retrieved from http://psychologydictionary.org/behavior-genetics/

MY DEFINITION: Behavioral genetics tries to explain human behavior by understanding what parts of it are based on our inherited genes versus being brought about by the environments in which we live. It basically focuses on the question of "nature vs. nurture."

SIGNIFICANT NAMES: John Locke, Sir Francis Galton, Charles Darwin, Thomas Bouchard

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE: Behavioral geneticists spend a lot of time studying twin siblings. Of greatest interest are identical twins who were separated at birth and raised in significantly different home environments. This allows them to compare the twins and determine the extent to which a shared genetic makeup combined with different life experiences create similar or different individuals, all for the purpose of seeking to settle the "nature vs. nurture" debate.

That's it! Do this for all seven perspectives listed below and <u>sure you upload to turninin.com by September 5th</u>. Here is the list of perspectives:

    1. Behavioral (***Different from the "Behavioral Genetics" example above)

    2. Biological (Neuroscientific)

    3. Cognitive

    4. Evolutionary

    5. Humanistic

    6. Psychodynamic (Freudian)

    7. Social-Cultural

PART II 15 Points Applying Psychological Perspectives to TED Talks

For this part of your assignment you will incorporate technology. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in short, powerful talks in 18 minutes or less. TED is an acronym for technology, entertainment, and design. I have listed some "talks" that are of interest for this course. You are to watch any of the *THREE of following TED TALKS.* After viewing each lecture, you will write a one paragraph analysis consisting of at least 10 – 15 sentences in which you connect the perspectives you read about to the TED Talk. The focus of this is not summation but analysis. Be sure you include the following in your analysis:
- your reaction to the TED Talk **(3 Points).** You can consider the following in this part.
  - was it effective, what was the message, any terms or concepts you were interested in and why
  - questions you have (you don't need to answer the questions just explain your thinking)
- What perspective of psychology (behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychoanalytical, socio cultural or biological) think is illustrated with the TED Talk? Explain. **(2 Points)**