AP Psychology Summer Institute
June 21-24, 2021
UTC APSI

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Hello! I'm an AP Psychology teacher from Memphis, TN, home of Elvis and barbeque. I have been an AP Psychology teacher for 20 years as well as a reader and question writer for the AP exam for the past 12 years. I'm currently on the national exam rubric development committee which develops the scoring guides and rubrics for grading the AP Psychology free response essays. I teach multiple AP subjects but Psychology is by far my favorite and I'm excited to be working with teachers in developing their AP Psychology programs.

This workshop is designed for both new and experienced AP Psychology teachers and will include discussions on content, planning, resources and organizational themes that hopefully will help strengthen participant's programs. Particular attention will be paid to teaching strategies, multiple choice question construction and free response essay writing that reinforce skills reflected on the AP exam. We will examine projects, activities, materials and exercises as well as essential vocabulary that promote exam preparedness. This will be an interactive seminar that includes materials supplied by me for various topics but also will draw upon your particular expertise and successful strategies you have created in the past. Please come prepared to share ideas!

Objectives

Here is what I hope we accomplish during our time together.

1. Participants will have a clear understanding of the AP Psychology content and expectations as described in the College Board Course Description.
2. Participants will exit with new demonstrations, activities, assessments, resources and instructional techniques.
3. Participants will have a thorough understanding of how free response questions are structured and graded by the AP readers.

Textbooks

Please bring the text (or texts) you use (or plan to use) for your AP class. I'm most familiar with the Myers text, but I've used other books as well. Some of our discussions will involve how we can best use our texts to help students, and we'll discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various textbooks.

General Considerations

Please feel free to bring your laptops/tablets and power cords. You might consider bringing an extension cord. Sometimes outlets are not easily accessible.

Bring anything else you need to make yourself comfortable including jackets in case the meeting rooms are cold.

Day 1:

Special Topic Day 1: Getting Started

- Introductions
    - AP Psychology Course Description (Acorn Book)
    - Course syllabus
    - Course Scope and Sequence
    - AP Audit
    - Group analysis to determine high concern areas and prioritizing needs
    - General expectations
    - Recommended textbooks
- Dissection of the AP Psychology exam
    - Overview of how multiple choice items are constructed and scored
    - Overview of how free response items are constructed and scored
    - How the exam is graded and how final scores are calculated.
- History and Approaches
    - Schools of thought and perspectives
    - Activities, assignments and projects
- Research Methodology
    - Discussion of terms, concepts, activities, teaching methods, and student projects.
    - Ethical considerations
    - Statistics – descriptive and inferential
    - Experimental designs
- Biological Bases of Behavior
    - Neuroanatomy
    - Nervous systems
    - Brain Imaging Techniques
    - Brain damage and plasticity
    - Split Brain Activities

- Sensation and Perception
    - Sensation vs Perception
    - Top Down vs Bottom Up Processing
    - Perception projects – Visual Distortion goggles
    - Perceptual Cues
    - Gestalt Processes

Day 2:

Special Topic Day 2: The Free Response Question

- States of Consciousness
    - Sleep, Dreams, Hypnosis and Drugs
    - Circadian Rhythms
    - Drug Addiction
- Learning
    - Classical vs Operant Conditioning
    - Positive vs Negative Reinforcement
    - Reinforcement Schedules
    - Biological and Cognitive Theories of Learning
- Cognition
    - Memory Models
    - Demonstrations and Activities
    - Practical Applications
- Intelligence and Testing
    - Theories of Intelligence
    - Intelligence Extremes
    - Testing Reliability and Validity
    - Culture and Intelligence Testing

Day 3:

Special Topic Day 3: Assessment/Grading in the AP Psychology Classroom

- Developmental Psychology
    - Piaget and Vygotsky
    - Language Acquisition
    - Piaget, Erickson, Kohlberg, Ainsworth Comparisons
    - Attachment Theory
- Personality
    - Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic Approach
    - Defense Mechanisms
    - Theories of Personality

- Motivation and Emotion
    - Differentiating Theories of Emotion
    - Trait Theory
    - Humanistic Theory
    - Socio-Cognitive Theory
- Abnormal Psychology
    - DSM-5
    - Etiology, diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Illness
    - Organic Mental Illness
    - Cognitive Mental Illness

Day 4:

Special Topic Day 4: Student Projects and Closure

- Treatment of Psychological Disorders
    - Comparing and Contrasting Treatments
    - Cognitive Therapies
    - Medical Therapies
    - Humanistic Therapies
- Social Psychology
    - Group Dynamics and Interactions
    - Cognitive Dissonance
    - Obedience and Conformity

- AP Psychology Exam
    - Review Materials
    - Exam Strategies
    - Participants Work on Essay Prompts
    - Participants Take the Multiple Choice Portion of the Exam
    - Scoring Discussion
    - Lab Session – Web sites and internet resources
    - Project Discussions