

# AP Psych: Psychology Symposium

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All options require a presentation to the class, either as a “summary of findings” or as the primary product.

1. **The Debate** – takes two people, one on each side. Research and prepare to discuss both sides of a controversial psychological issue of your choice. Product: written arguments for both sides, bibliography, and a presentation.
2. **Psych Lit Review (“Review of the Literature”)** – Up to two people. Select newspaper, journal and magazine articles that pertain to the development of a psychological guiding question (i.e., a hypotheses). Include samples from a wide variety of sources surrounding the theme of your question. Each selection needs to be annotated by summarizing and explaining how each selection relates to a psychological concept, theory or research finding from the text or lecture. Also needs an introduction and conclusion summing up the material. (Product includes a presentation of findings and written report.)
3. **Presentation Session** – (up to three people) – do research on a psychological question (typically something controversial, for instance, about different types of approaches or treatments for psych disorders) of your choice, but present it in presentation form (slide deck or video presentation is available). Be able to intelligently answer questions about your research as students view it. (Need written abstract and outline of research and bibliography)
4. **Experiment** – (up to three people) Design and execute a psychological experiment of your choice – need to include all the components of good research in an ethical setting and be able to evaluate it in the time frame allotted. (Product: abstract and outline of experiment and design, plus bibliography; presentation of findings.)
5. **Video presentation (applies to any of the above):** Do any of the above, but present research and findings of your topic in a multi-media or video form. Product: abstract, written summary (story board) and bibliography. Research must be cited in some way during the video.
6. **Novelty Video Presentation**—based on predictions based on principles of Social Psychology. The video follows a research question, a prediction of the types of responses, and is presented in the format seen on the [Fifty People, One Question Website](#). Must include elements of research and provide some analysis of the results.
7. **Fractured Fairytale**—a retelling of any popular story, but done so through a psychological lens. Group project – no more than 4 people per group! Beware of social loafers!
  - Select a familiar story (different story for each group)
  - Retell the story in some fashion (video, act it out, puppet show, etc – be creative) within the following guidelines
    - a. At least 3 characters with psychological disorders or chronic problems
    - b. At least one character who is a mental health professional working from a specific perspective
    - c. At least 12 psychological terms or concepts used (cleverly)
  - Present your version of your story to the class (10 – 12 minutes per group)
  - you may use props or media – be creative as you like
  - All members must be obvious participants – again, beware of social loafers that pull YOUR grade down (you all get the same grade!)
  - Presentation must be accompanied by a handout (for me) that includes:
    - d. An abstract (synopsis; summary) for the story and the disorders “discovered” and the treatment used.
    - e. For each disorder, a synopsis of symptoms and appropriate therapeutic methods of treatment that you have researched beyond your textbook. This will require a “descriptive bibliography” in which the research is cited and connected with the part of the plot in which it was included.
    - f. For the mental health professional, a description of his/her method must be used; again, this is based on research.
    - g. List of psychological terms, concepts to be included will be part of “checkpoints”
8. **Profile Serial Killers:** This project is designed for you to step into the role of a psychologist to study the mind of a serial killer. You have the option of working by yourself or working with partner. Psychologist often collaborate so if you choose to work with partners then you only need to turn in one project. You will need to see Mr. Van Over for the project requirements. You will need to present to the class, provide an abstract, and include an outline of your presentation showing your research, along with a bibliography.

**Possible Topics for Study (for Videos, etc.) You must have your project approved by me. To use these, you’d have to develop a research question.**

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| ▪ Split Brain Patients                 | ▪ Psychology of Tech use- cell phones/iphones,/ ipods, etc.-effect on society | ▪ Do animals feel empathy? Communicate? |
| ▪ Procrastination                      | ▪ Exercise & the Brain, well being  | ▪ Phantom Limb Syndrome                 |
| ▪ The Psychology of Success            | ▪ Resilience  | ▪ Sleeping brain at work                |
| ▪ Addiction                            | ▪ Sixth Sense   | ▪ The Hidden power of Scent, and Memory |
| ▪ Prejudice/Stereotypes/Discrimination | ▪ Why people choke under pressure   | ▪ The Gifted Child                      |
| ▪ The Science of Gossip/Rumors         | ▪ Inside the Terrorist mind   | ▪ Savants/ADD/ADHD/Autism               |
| ▪ How Technology alters your mind      | ▪ Inside the Sociopathic Mind   |   |

- The Psychology of Lies/Liars/ Believing one's lies
- The Psychology of storytelling
- Love & Health- How partners heal/harm one another
- Daydreaming
- Fascination with Famous People
- Daydreaming
- The Psychology of Color
- Stress relieving methods- yoga/meditation, etc
- Shyness- Introverts vs Extroverts
- Left handedness
- Body image among Adolescent Dancers/Athletes
- Holding onto Cultural Identity, psychology of multiculturalism - mainstream
- Cyberbullying
- Criminals Need Mental Health Care
- The Psychology of Humor/comedians
- The Psychology of Cosmetic Surgery, addiction/Body Dysmorphic Disorder
- Importance of Family Time/Family Dinners/ Mothers & Fathers
- Subliminal Messages
- The pressure to Conform
- Physical/Emotional effect of Music
- Music and the Brain
- The Power/Effectiveness of Advertising
- Eyewitness Testimony/Test your memory
- Do you believe in Magic?
- Selective Attention
- The Use of Animals in Experiments
- Positivism and Authentic Happiness
- Fortune telling/Barnum effect
- Sleep studies
- Hunger
- Universality of Facial Expression/ Body Language/Display Rules (culturally?)
- Androgony
- Language
- Hypnosis
- Stress Research, effects on body/mind
- Art/Music & Mental Illness
- Brainwashing
- Memory- problems, diseases, Sensory Memory
- Learning styles
- Of Mind and Body- connection between the 2
- Man the fixer, Woman the Nurterer
- The Future of Warfare- psychological ramifications
- PTSD & Soldiers
- Video Games
- Cultural Bound Mental Disorders
- Psychology/ Mental Illness and Television Shows/ Movies
- Famous Psych Experiments- How they changed the world!
- Concussions & Athletes
- Rage
- Greed
- Anger
- Food for the Brain
- Animals in Psychology- training/therapy
- Generations- Baby Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y (Millennials)
- Know Thyself- Emotional Intelligence
- Careers in Psychology
- Delayed reaction and its impact on sense

Projects will carry a maximum of **100 points**. **They will be evaluated based on degree of research, clarity of presentation, understanding of the concepts, creativity and originality. All projects must include a bibliography of sources (APA format). Think creativity and scholarship.** Partner projects will be graded equally unless it is clear one member did not contribute equally.