











# AP Psychology Summer Project

When you enter South River next August, we will cover the entirety of Unit I (History and Approaches) in two jam-packed phun<sup>1</sup>-filled classes. In order to do this with relatively little pain<sup>2</sup>, this project is designed to give you a comprehensive head start.

Directions: Using the miraculous modern invention known as the “Internet<sup>3</sup>” or those fantabulous AP Psychology test prep books<sup>4</sup>, read about the following psychological perspectives:


-  Psychodynamic/Psychoanalytic (different names for essentially the same approach)
-  Behaviorist
-  Cognitive
-  Sociocultural
-  Biological/Medical/Biomedical (different names for essentially the same approach)
-  Humanist

For each of these six perspectives, find out the following:


-  That perspective’s central claim(s) and distinguishing feature(s)
-  Famous psychologist(’s) name(s) associated with that perspective (not all perspectives will have one)
-  How that perspective accounts for/explains human behavior
-  How that perspective is unique from the other perspectives

Here’s the twist: **I’m not collecting this project.**  
In fact, you could ignore this whole thing and it wouldn’t matter.  
...Until the third day of class.  
When you take your Unit I test.

So the choice is yours:

 Do the basic research listed above before school starts, be well-informed and ahead of the game, confidently coast through your first two days of class, and rock out on your unit I test...

OR

 Don’t do the research, be flustered and behind the curve, struggle unnecessarily to learn all of the information during the first two days of class, and hope for the best on your unit I test<sup>5</sup>.

If, in the course of the research that I hope you decide to do, you have a question or don’t understand something, I can be reached at:

LGOODHUE@aacps.org

Please be aware that I work at Nerd Camp for the entire summer, so there might be a weeks-long lag between when you ask your question and when I have time to answer it. But I *will* do my utmost to answer your question(s), so please feel free to ask them.<sup>6</sup>

## Enjoy your summer!

<sup>1</sup> Phun : fun :: Keebler’s® Grasshoppers® : Girl Scout Thin Mints. That’s right, kids-- it’s an *analogy*. WHAT NOW?

<sup>2</sup> Notice that pain, in and of itself, is pretty much a given.

<sup>3</sup> See also: the information superhighway, the World Wide Web, “teh interwebs.”

<sup>4</sup> Barron’s is usually the best one, if you’re looking to purchase your own. Which is not a requirement, although it does tend to be helpful.

<sup>5</sup> Mmm. Mind games. Delicious.

<sup>6</sup> This statement only applies to Psychology-related questions. If you want to know if he *like* likes you, or what Ke\$ha has against the letter “s”, or why sock monkeys are concurrently hideous and hilarious... I really can’t help you out. Sorry.