

## **Honors Psychology PsychFiles**

**Purpose:** This assignment is designed to get students thinking about how the information in Psychology class relates to the world and culture in which we live. Application is a very important part of making the course material yours, which in turn strengthens your ability to recall information on quizzes and tests.

**Directions:** In the week(s) before a PsychFile is due, look around you for evidence of psychology. You may want to look in a magazine or newspaper, but you may also stumble upon evidence while watching a television program or listening to the radio. Students will need to bring in proof of the connection (a newspaper clipping, a copy of a commercial or TV program, a pamphlet, book, or a movie stub) and a 2-3 paragraph summary that examines the psychological relevance of the item. If the evidence is challenging to bring in, such as a program conversation in another class or a commercial from TV, have an adult sign the assignment verifying the experience.

I discourage always using the same format. Please do not simply use Google to “look up” an article on psychology for every assignment. Eventually, I will deduct points from the grades.

**Sharing the PsychFiles:** In order to score an A+ (100%) on the assignment, you will also need to share what you have discovered with the class. This is a great opportunity to work on conversation and summarizing skills. It will also reinforce the important vocabulary of the course. If all components of the Psych Files are complete but the student does not share, a score of up to an A (96%) will be earned.

**What should I look for?** Students will want to look for evidence of the current topics studied in Psychology class. When researching Biological Psychology, look for evidence of brain research or impacts on behavior from brain trauma. When learning about Cognitive Psychology, look for ways that memory are impacted, utilize some of the memory strategies discussed in class or search out how language develops understanding.

**When are they due?** PsychFiles will always be due on Fridays, about 3-4 times per quarter.

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