

Name:

Expectations for AP Psych Students

As an AP student, you have self-selected a course taught at the college level. This means that you are going to be doing work of a type and amount comparable to an Introduction to Psychology course. As you begin this course, please keep the following expectations in mind:

1. **Keep an open mind** – There are varying theories and topics that will be dealt with. You are not required to agree with everything that you read and or share during discussions, however, the ability to use different lenses to analyze events is one that will be helpful to you in this course and the future.
2. **Complete work on time, every time** – Assignments are given in advance, so late work is not accepted for reduced credit. If it is late, it is a zero (there are a few exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis). If there is missing work, there is no opportunity for “extra credit” to make up for it.
3. **Respect the honor code** – All AP students are expected to do their work as responsible individuals unless group work has been specifically permitted or assigned. Students who copy work from others violate this honor code and may be recommended for removal to regular classes. Plagiarism is a serious offense within academia, and this matter is taken seriously.
4. **Be responsible** – This includes making sure you get the requisite books for in-class study before you need them, making sure you do all make-up work within the allotted time, and making sure you are keeping up with long-range project goals and assignments. Self-motivation will be absolutely essential to you as you head off to college in the next year or two; take this chance to start working on yours.
5. **Show maturity** – This includes leaving behind juvenile, disruptive, and disrespectful behavior, as well as being tolerant of ideas and beliefs different from your own. As upperclassmen, you are at the jumping-off point for the adult world and I expect you to behave as educated adults.
6. **Leave your attitude at the door** – Your attitude can set the tone for an entire class. Choose to come to class each day and look for something new you can use, even if the work at hand is not your personal favorite. No matter what you may think of your classmates, the content of this class, or me, personally, you will show respect at all times. Remember that you signed up for this course, and do not sigh, roll your eyes, groan, or otherwise gripe when assignments are given. The assignment won’t go away, but my good humor probably will!

7. **Prepare adequately** – If you are given readings, etc. outside of class, make sure you spend a proper amount of time with them. Analysis is an integral part of this course. Failure to effectively use thinking skills as you prepare for class will cause your grade to drop. Trust me.

8. **Read** – Despite what you believe, the purpose of reading and taking notes is to prepare for discussions in class and be a more enlightened learner. Coming to class without spending quality time actively reading will do you no favors.

9. **Ask for help** – Do not let yourself become overwhelmed. If you are struggling with the reading, a paper, or a project, plan to see me before the due date. I check my email multiple times throughout the day and I am happy to schedule a meeting time with you. Keep in mind that you are not my only student, so do not wait until the last minute to see me! Also, remember that you are taking a college level course, yes it will be difficult, but you need to advocate for yourself. If you are having issues or concerns, I need to be hearing about those from YOU!

10. **Be prepared for constructive criticism** – My purpose in this class is not to stroke your ego. If you are here, you know you are probably a motivated student who is a skilled writer and a critical thinker among other qualities. My purpose is to sharpen and refine those skills. Be prepared to receive grades with less than a perfect score, comments on your writing, and challenges to your ideas in discussion. Do not sulk and take this as a personal attack. Use this as a chance to grow.

Following these ten simple suggestions can help all of us to have a fruitful year. I have the highest of expectations for my AP students, and I know that you will live up to them.

If you agree with these expectations and believe you can fulfill them, please sign below and return this page to me.

Date: _____

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Please write legibly, or print your name as well!