

Summer Assignment 2025  
AP Psychology - Miss. D'Amato  
Book - "You Are Not So Smart" by David McRaney  
Posted in Google Classroom – Join Classroom Using Code:  
This Assignment is Due - In Google Classroom

Humans like to think that we are rational and logical beings, however decades of research in cognitive psychology has proven otherwise. The book, "**You are Not so Smart**" by **David McRaney** (*which you must purchase/borrow from the library & read - [LINK](#)*) explores the failings of memory, how we do things without having a clue, why we are doing them, and the narratives we construct and tell ourselves to make us feel better about our choices and decisions.

This book is a fabulous summer read for many reasons. First of all, we will be learning about every single concept presented in the book at some point this year. Second of all, each chapter is very short and engaging. Best of all, as you read, your mind will be flooded with memories and personal experiences that connect with the concepts and stories presented in the book.

**After reading the entire book, please complete these TWO assignments:**

1. There are many **very important AP Psychology concepts presented in the book**. Complete the attached chart where **you define each concept** using your own words and provide a **specific example from the book or your own life**. Please type your responses using the template I posted to Google Classroom. (60 points)
  2. Choose **one** of the following quotes. Write a typed (12 pt./Times New Roman), double spaced essay in which you use **five concepts** from the book to support the quote. For each concept be sure to:
    - give a **summary of the concept** and **related research/researchers that explored/developed the concept**. **Note:** you may need to go beyond the book to summarize the related research and researchers depending on what concepts you choose.
    - tell how it supports the quotes through specific examples (from the book as well as your own)
    - Essay is worth 100 points
- "THE MISCONCEPTION: You are a rational, logical being who sees the world as it really is. THE TRUTH: You are as deluded as the rest of us, but that's OK, it keeps you sane." -David McRaney
  - "You have a deep desire to be right all of the time and a deeper desire to see yourself in a positive light both morally and behaviorally. You can stretch your mind pretty far to achieve these goals." – David McRaney
  - "When you need something to be true, you will look for patterns; you connect the dots like the stars of a constellation. Your brain abhors disorder" –David McRaney
  - You are always explaining to yourself the motivations for your actions and the causes to the effects in your life, and you make them up without realizing it when you don't know the answers. Over time, these explanations become your idea of who you are and your place in the world. They are yourself... You are a story you tell yourself." – David McRaney
  - "You are a liar by default, and you lie most to yourself. If you fail, you forget it. If you win, you tell everyone." – David McRaney
  - "Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups."- George Carlin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**You Are Not So Smart Concept Chart - Assignment #1**

Concept	Definition (1 point)	Specific Example (1 point)
Priming		
Confabulation		
Confirmation Bias		
Hindsight Bias		
The Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy		
Normalcy Bias		

Introspection Illusion		
The Availability Heuristic		
The Bystander Effect		
The Dunning-Kruger Effect		
The Just World Fallacy		

Subjective Validation		
Cult Indoctrination		
Groupthink		
The Affect Heuristic		
Self-Serving Bias		
The Spotlight Effect		

Catharsis

The Misinformation Effect

Conformity

Social Loafing

The Illusion of Transparency

Learned Helplessness

The Anchoring Effect		
Self-Handicapping		
Self-Fulfilling Prophecies		
The Representativeness Heuristic		
Expectation		
The Illusion of Control		
The Fundamental Attribution Error		

