

AP PSYCHOLOGY

General Hints and Tips for Writing an AP Psychology FRQ

Style & Organization

- **THINK** before you start writing.
- **FORMAT**
 - ◆ **DO NOT** write the essay in outline/bullet form
 - ◆ **DO NOT** write an introduction or conclusion
 - ◆ **USE** complete sentences
 - ◆ **USE** paragraphs to indicate answers to different parts of question
 - ◆ **UNDERLINE** the term in your answer so the reader can find it.
- Make sure you cover everything the question asks in the order it asks

Content Hints

- **K.I.S.S. IT!** - Keep It Simple Silly.
 - ◆ Do what you can to get your point across - but **DO NOT** overcomplicate things. Be Clear. Do not ramble.
 - ◆ Most importantly - **ANSWER WHAT THE QUESTION IS ASKING**
- Identify - Clarify - Apply - Explain
 - ◆ For each bullet or term, *identify* what it is through a definition, then *clarify* the definition with another sentence or sentence extension; next **apply, apply, apply** the term to the scenario given and **explain, explain, explain** their application.
- **GIVE** examples - from course, not personal life.
- **USE** psychology terms. Readers are looking for your psychological knowledge.
- **WRITE SOMETHING**. If you are clueless about a term, do not despair. Do your best and write something. You might hit on what the rubric asks for. If not, you will not be penalized for trying.
- Most rubrics will follow an 6-8 point scale

Remember the Acronym **SODAS!**

SPACE - Space out your answer

ORDER - Keep the order of the prompt

DEFINE - Define everything

APPLY - Apply everything to the prompt

SYNONYMS - Use Synonyms in order to avoid parroting the prompt