

AP Psychology

Essay Writing Format

General Rules

1. Students should use dark blue or black ink only.
2. Essays should be extremely legible. Sloppy essays may be subjectively down graded by the reader.
3. Students should use a "highlighter" to emphasize the major terms, studies or individuals included in the essay.
4. The AP Psychology essays may be classified as "racehorse questions." Students must immediately begin to outline and answer the questions. There is no time to waste. Remember you must write both essays in 45 minutes.
5. A maximum of five minutes should be used for outlining each question.
6. The most recent AP test question have not required students to develop a thesis only illustrate knowledge of the subject matter.

Steps in Writing an Essay

1. Analyze the Question

- A) Without a clear understanding of the questions, you cannot write an adequate answer.
- B) Understand key terms: assess, explain, etc.

2. Writing the Body Paragraphs

- A) Provide factual information to prove your thesis.
- B) Facts should be organized in logical sequence.
- C) Each set of facts should be in a separate paragraph..
- D) Refute arguments contrary to your thesis.
- E) Be sure and answer all parts of the question.