

Brain Scavenger Hunt

Week 3 Deadlines

- A completed Brain Scavenger Hunt Discussion must be submitted in the Dropbox by *11:59pm Friday*.
- Post your discussion in the forum by *11:59pm Friday*.
- Post a response to one other person's discussion (above your post) by *11:59pm Sunday*

Dropbox Submission Requirements

- Rich Text Format (RTF), Word (DOC or DOCX), or Portable Document File (PDF)
- Minimum of 500 words (not including citations or instructions).
- Must include 2-3 sources (textbook should be 1 source + 2 others) and use APA style citations.

Dropbox and Discussion Post Instructions

The brain is an amazing organ that scientists continue to study. For this discussion you will use your textbook, the Internet, and other available resources to find answers to a question about the brain and its growth and development over the lifespan.

Here are the questions you get to choose from – pick 1 to research and discuss:

Question 1: What does the research on neurogenesis tell us about the brain's capacity to change? How can this research be useful for combating illness and disease?

Question 2: Are people really left-brained or right-brained?

Question 3: Are the male and female brains different? Can any gender differences explain the positions that men and women hold in our society?

Question 4: What are mirror neurons and how can this research be used to understand illness or human behavior?

Question 5: What did you learn about the adolescent brain and how is this research useful as a parent or other caretaker?

Remember that these are not "yes/no" questions so be sure to conduct a thorough information search, using the principles of evaluating websites for credibility and be sure to clearly articulate your answers. You can either copy-and-paste directly from your Dropbox submission or you can summarize what you learned and/or found most interesting, just be sure that you are appropriately using APA citations to demonstrate your critical thinking skills (if you don't remember what critical thinking is, then go back to Step 5 of the Online Orientation and revisit the skills of a critical thinker).

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Here are some suggestions to create an interesting and engaging discussion:

- Focus on what you found most interesting (or surprising) and explain what interested you.
- Include your personality in your posting, rather than dryly presenting information.
- Simplify your writing while using key concepts and terms from the lesson.
- Follow the rules of parsimony and keep it simple.
- Don't be too wordy or lengthy, which may dissuade people from reading your post.
- Do not post your discussion as an attachment; this dissuades people from reading your post, too.

Remember that this is your opportunity to engage your classmates in a discussion so be sure to also review the rules of netiquette (Step 2 of the Online Orientation).

Discussion Responses

At a minimum you are expected to respond to one other person's post and engage in their discussion about the brain. For this discussion you **MUST** respond to a student who did research on a question that you did **NOT** already do research on. First read the post of the person above you, then the person below you, and if they both researched the same topic then please try to find somebody who researched a different topic but hasn't been responded to yet, so that I can ensure each person has at least one response to their posting.

Engage in a conversation about anything in their post that is interesting to you or that you would like to elaborate on. Be sure to demonstrate strong critical thinking skills in your post (see the Rubric for more explanation of this). Here are some guidelines for responding to students:

- Verify that the information they reported was accurate or clearly explained. If not, clarify.
- Add to their conversation, such as elaborating on their concepts or adding additional supportive information to theirs.
- Provide alternate interpretations or present conflicting research.
- If their information results in a question, don't just post the question but find an answer to that question and add this to the discussion.

There are many ways to demonstrate engagement and critical thinking, these are just a few suggestions.

APA Format

Don't forget that you expected to submit original work, which means that no more than 10% of the discussion should be quoted (or copied) material. In addition you are expected to use APA style in-text citations as well as provide an APA Reference Page at the end. Information about APA format and plagiarism are posted in the Online Orientation and in the Weekly Schedule.

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Tips to Maximize Points

Apply concepts and theories. Anytime you are completing a discussion you will be scored on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts you've learned as they relate to the topics you are discussing, as well as your critical thinking skills. You are not expected to apply all of the concepts from the lesson but you will be scored on how well you explain the ones that you do choose to discuss.

Stay actively engaged. You should be sure to pick topics that you find interesting because you will feel compelled to engage in the discussion. If you are regularly participating in the process you will be creating opportunities to earn points by applying the concepts and theories you are learning about. There is no formula for how many times you have to post, however you are expected to post your original post as well as at least one response to a classmate. Also as a general rule, if a person responds to your post at a reasonable time before the deadline I would expect that you read and respond to their response when appropriate; if I respond with suggestions or questions it is strongly recommended that you reply to my response.

Pay attention to discussion deadlines. You have 24 hours to post a discussion for late credit and after the discussion closes there are no points for late posts in the discussion forum.

Penalties

Discussions will be penalized as follows:

- Did not use APA citations = no credit
- Cannot open submission in the Dropbox = no credit
- Submission is less than 500 words (citations and instructions not included) = no credit
- Plagiarism = no credit and reported to the Dean
- More than 20% quoted information = no credit
- Did not use APA in-text or full citations = -5 points
- No submission in the Dropbox = -5 points
- Late submission in the Dropbox = -3 points
- Exceeds the 10% quotation maximum = -1 point per percentage, up to 20%.