Brain Scavenger Hunt
Individual Project

Project Objective

Explore the growth and development of the brain throughout the lifespan

Scavenger Hunt <u>Submission</u> Due Date: A completed Scavenger Hunt must be submitted in the Dropbox and post an initial discussion in your group discussion forum by 11:59pm Friday

Scavenger Hunt <u>Discussion</u> Due Date: You should post your initial findings of you scavenger hunt in your group discussion by 11:59pm Sunday.

Project Instructions

The brain is an amazing organ that scientists continue to study. For this project you will use the Internet and other available resources to find answers to common questions about the brain and its growth and development over the lifespan. It is expected that students will utilize <u>multiple sources</u> for each question and appropriately use APA citations to avoid plagiarism. After completing the Scavenger Hunt, you will discuss what you've learned about the brain with other students in your group discussion. Here are the questions you need to answer:

>   **Question 1:** Does the brain generate new neurons throughout its lifetime?

>   **Question 2:** How do complex behaviors, such as dancing and playing a sport, show how the brain is integrated?

>   **Question 3:** Is the male brain different than the female brain?

>   **Question 4:** Is intelligence something we are born with, or is it learned?

>   **Question 5:** How is the teenage brain different from the adult brain?

Remember that these are not "yes/no" questions so be sure to thoroughly research and provide clear answers.

Students can use the "Brain Scavenger Hunt" template to complete this project, which must be submitted in the Dropbox as Rich Text Format (RTF), Word (DOC or DOCX), or Portable Document File (PDF). Any other format may receive an automatic zero score.

APA Format

Students are expected to submit original work, which means that no more than 10% of the project should be quoted (or copied) material. In addition students are expected to use APA in-text citations as well as provide an APA Reference Page at the end. Information about APA format and plagiarism are posted in the Weekly Schedule. Failure to appropriately cite sources in this project may lead to an automatic ZERO score.

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Grading Rubric

This project is worth up to 50 points and students earn points based on completion of the Brain Scavenger Hunt and their participation in the brain discussion. Each student will be evaluated using the questions below.

- Are the student's answers clearly and logically explained? (Submission)
- Did the student use multiple, reliable sources? (Submission)
- Did the student demonstrate appropriate use of APA citations? (Submission)
- Did the student's <u>discussion</u> demonstrate understanding about brain growth and development?
- Was the student actively engaged in the <u>discussion</u>?

Each of these questions will be scored using a 10-point Likert scale:

0...............1............2............3.............4.............5................6................7.................8...............9.................10
Not at all   Minimal   Average   Good   Very Good

Tips to Maximize Points

Apply concepts and theories. Anytime you are asked to post an analysis in a project you will be scored on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts you've learned as they relate to the topics you are discussing. Therefore to maximize points you should discuss concepts that were presented in the lesson(s) and <u>apply them clearly</u> when answering posted discussion questions. You are not expected to apply all of the concepts but you will be scored on how well you explain the ones that you do choose to apply in this project.

Stay actively engaged. You should be sure to pick projects that you find interested because you will feel compelled to engage in discussion with your group. 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 as a general rule it would be impossible to maximize points if you have only posted one time.

Pay attention to project deadlines. All of the projects require discussion and/or cooperation with others and the deadlines are designed to facilitate this process, so pay close attention to those deadlines. Although the Friday deadlines do allow for late submissions by Sunday (with a 5 point penalty), there are no late submission for Sunday deadlines.