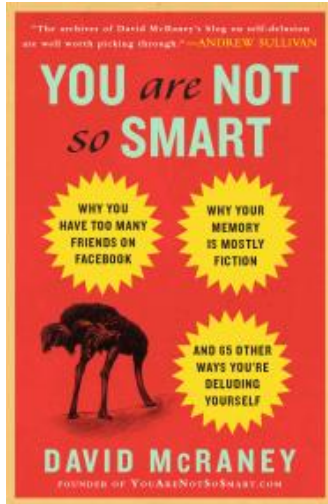


SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

BOOK: You Are Not So Smart by David McRaney
ISBN: 978-1592407366

Kindle Available: \$9.99
Amazon Paperback: \$9.33

YOU ARE NOT SO SMART



OBJECTIVE: The objective of this summer activity is to stimulate your thinking about psychological science through a series of activities based upon the book *You Are Not So Smart* by David McRaney.

As you read this book (including the introduction), your mind will be flooded with memories and personal experiences that connect with the anecdotes presented in the text. I challenge you to embrace these memories and seriously reflect on how they relate to the psychological principles upon which they are based. In the end, your experiences will be a part of the culminating activity that you will submit when we return in September.

To that end, please find below the instructions for the summer study activity. It involves **three** fundamental components: **reading, reflection, and research**.

First, you are expected to read the text at your leisure. It is a great summer read; you will be able to pick up where you left off throughout the months. Do not rush—start early and progress at your own pace. Mark the chapters that make you think about your own behavior, or about the behavior of others that you have observed. You will need to select **4 chapters** that evoke the greatest connection with your own experiences.

Second, you will need to reflect and share why these chapters connected with your life experiences. This reflection should not be an attempt at personal psychoanalysis! It should simply tell the story of why the concepts in the chapters you chose connected to your experiences. For the most part, these will be “aha!” moments—you’ll be reading and suddenly appreciate a time when you can relate to the concepts at play. Reflection activates your cognitive map among other things; it is an important component of learning and essential to this activity.

Finally, you will conduct a web research activity (APA citations expected) to extend your understanding of the basic principles and concepts presented in the chapters you selected. Allow your research to answer both traditional and nontraditional inquiries. Who are the principle psychological researchers responsible for these findings? What key studies were conducted? How are these findings being applied to the real world? What movies and books

reflect these principles? What historical events exemplify the psychology behind the behavior? Allow your mind to explore whatever questions present them as you research! But always (*this is mandatory*), determine what specific area of psychological study deals with the concepts presented: biological psychology; sensation and perception; nature, nurture, and human development; learning; memory; cognition and language; states of consciousness; motivation; emotional behaviors, stress and health; social psychology; personality; psychological disorders (it may be helpful to research each of these areas of psychology prior to completing the activity).

On the next page you will find the template you will need to recreate, in order to complete the activity (it must be typewritten; use the template to construct your own). The template includes instructions for each area of investigation. You will complete a separate template for each chapter you investigate, so **you will have a total of 4 templates** completed. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Eisele at eiselej@lschs.org, for any clarifications, questions or concerns must happen prior to the start of class. I will respond to all emails during the summer months, so do not hesitate to contact me so that you can complete this coursework.

You will electronically submit your template sheets for each of the 4 chapters you investigated upon your return to school. Your Word document should be ready for upload on the 1st day of class. As long as they incorporate the elements listed above, I will be comfortable if you modify the structure so that you best reflect your exploration and learning for each area investigated. Have fun with this assignment—I hope this reading selection instigates curiosity, investigation, and reflection. The ultimate goal of this activity is to get you excited and motivated about the study of psychology! In the process, you will survey the modules we will study over the course of the next academic year so that you gain a perspective of the broad landscape that psychological science covers.

A test on the entire book will be given at the end of the first week of class.

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"No, I'm fine. It just feels good to lay down for a bit."

CHAPTER SUMMARY TEMPLATES

CHAPTER ____ AND TITLE

Type "the truth" heading in this area.

REFLECTION

What connection did you establish between your experience and the subject matter of this chapter? This should be a succinct description of a personal experience or a situation that you observed that caused you to relate to the psychological concepts being presented. Why does this chapter matter to you?

SYNOPSIS

Outline the significant points that establish "the truth" as argued by David McRaney. Use bullet format and it keep it focused on the fundamental elements that establish the behavior.

WEB QUEST RESEARCH

This is the area that you will present your research findings from instruction #3 on the first page. Since you are AP students, I suspect you want very, very, very specific directions as to what I want in this arena. Too bad—I will give no further instruction than what is written on page 1. I want you to be excited about the chapters you choose, and I want you to explore them with enthusiasm. Surprise me with what you discover, and enjoy the process of learning for a change!!!! But be sure to track your research, as you will be expected to cite each source at the bottom of this page in APA format (because this is a Psychology course, MLA format is unacceptable; please research appropriate APA citation methods over the summer so you can fulfill this requirement, as it will be expected throughout the year).

AREA OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

In this area you need to select the area of psychological science that specifically accounts for the behavior investigated in the chapter. After your determination, write a one sentence explanation that substantiates why your selection is most appropriate to explain the behavior.

Areas of psychological science: biological psychology; sensation and perception; nature, nurture, and human development; learning; memory; cognition and language; states of consciousness; motivation; emotional behaviors, stress and health; social psychology; personality; psychological disorders

APA CITATION

Here you will list in APA format your references. This is a web quest so most should be websites, but if you also researched other materials be sure to include them in this area.

****special note regarding appropriate web research: determine the validity and academic integrity of the sites you research. Wikipedia, for example, can be a great starting point for research as it has many endnotes which direct you to source websites, but it is not considered a valid research source in academia. Reputation is based on academic conduct, so choose your sources carefully****

Have a Great Summer,

Mr. Eisele