

AP Psychology

Mrs. Cabrera-Sarduy



The Celebrity Brain!

What caused Tom Cruise to jump on Oprah's couch when he proclaimed his love for Katie Holmes? What caused Britney Spears to shave off all her hair? Why did Charlie Sheen flip out?

Today you will be speculating as to why celebrities behave certain ways. Specifically, you will be speculating what that celebrity's brain actually looks like.

Chapter 3 of our book discusses not only the parts of the brain, but the functions, emotions, and physical responses they are responsible for. For this assignment, you will select a celebrity and create a caricature of their brain; that is, you will actually draw what their brain "looks like" based on the behaviors we read about or observe in the media.

Directions:

- Using the diagram on page 92, sketch the "average" brain on the poster board provided to you.
- Label all the parts of the brain on your sketch; be sure to also include the Frontal, Occipital, Temporal, and Parietal Lobes.
- Next, select a celebrity whom you would like to profile. Based on their observable behaviors, modify the parts of the brain you previously sketched that are related to those behaviors, responses, or emotions.
- For example:
 - When Britney Spears was divorcing Kevin Federline, her anger got "the best of her" when she saw his car in a parking lot. She proceeded to beat his car with her umbrella.
 - From chapter 3, we know that the amygdala is involved in aggression and anger responses. In this case, I would make sure to exaggerate the amygdala in my caricature of Britney's brain.
- You may exaggerate specific parts of the brain that refer to either the celebrity's strengths or weaknesses.
- You may modify the size and/or shape of your selected areas. You may also draw pictures/words inside the selected areas.
 - Example: $E = mc^2$ in the Frontal lobe of Einstein's brain
- You must exaggerate at least 4 areas or parts for your chosen celebrity's brain.
- Once you have selected and modified the 4 targeted areas or parts, you must write a justification for your modification.
- Your justification should include the behavior of the celebrity, the function(s) of that brain part, and how your modification exemplifies your celebrity's behavior.
 - For example, writing: "The amygdala is bigger because Britney is aggressive" is not enough. A complete response would read: "Britney Spears has been known to 'lose her cool.' In recent years, she beat her ex-husband's car with her umbrella. The amygdala is one of the areas of the brain involved in aggressive responses. I chose to enlarge the amygdala in my sketch of her brain because of her overly aggressive behavior."
- Justifications should be written on the poster. Do not submit a separate sheet of paper for your justifications.
- Make sure to color your brain. You will also be graded on neatness and creativity. Have fun with it!

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Celebrity Brain Rubric

Categories	Score				
	4	3	2	1	0
Labels	All parts of the brain are labeled with no errors.	Most parts of the brain are labeled, or all parts of the brain are labeled with 1 or 2 errors.	Some parts of the brain are labeled, or all parts of the brain are labeled with a few errors.	Few parts of the brain are labeled, or all parts of the brain are labeled with a significant amount of errors.	No parts of the brain are labeled, or if labeled, they are all labeled incorrectly.
Modifications	Contains at least 4 discernable modifications to the brain.	Contains 3 discernable modifications to the brain.	Contains 2 discernable modifications to the brain.	Contains 1 discernable modification to the brain.	Does not contain any discernable modifications to the brain.
Justifications	Justifications are complete, well-written, and modifications are correctly applied.	Justifications are mostly complete, well-written, and modifications are correctly applied.	Justifications are somewhat complete, and modifications are mostly applied correctly.	Justifications are incomplete, and often modifications are incorrectly applied.	Justifications are incomplete to non-existent, or modifications are consistently incorrectly applied.
Neatness/ Creativity	Poster is colored, clean, well-organized, and easy to read. A creative title and celebrity name are evident.	Poster is colored, mostly clean, organized, and easy to read. The title and celebrity name are evident.	Poster is somewhat colored, contains some organization, and is legible. The title or celebrity name may be missing.	Poster is not colored, and contains little organization. The title or celebrity name is missing.	Poster is not colored, and contains no organization. Poster is illegible. The title and celebrity name are missing.

Grading Scale

A= 14 or more points

B= 12-13 points

C= 10-11 points

D= 8-9 points

F= 7 or less points