Perspectives in 5/6 word definitions!

1. Biological-behavior explained by chemical, structural or genetics.
2. Behavioral-observable & measureable behaviors.
3. Cognitive-focus on memory, intelligence, problem-solving & retrieval.
4. Humanistic-conscious experience, freedom to choose & human capacity.
5. Psychodynamic-unconsciously motivated behavior, less emphasis on childhood.
6. Sociocultural-thinking & behavior changes in situations & culturally.
7. Evolutionary-natural selection -focus of behavior and mental processes.

100 word list in 5/6 word definitions. For examples, I have listed the A’s!

1. Absolute threshold-minimum stimulation to detect stimulus.
2. Action potential-brief neural impulse travels axon of nerve.
3. Aggression-physical / verbal behavior to hurt or destroy.
4. Anxiety-vague feeling of apprehension or nervousness.
5. Artificial intelligence-created intelligence, i.e. computers/not in any textbook glossary.
6. Associationism-cerebral cortex involved in higher functions.
7. Attachment-emotional ties with another person.
8. Attitude change-factors influencing-feelings from beliefs & contacts that predispose responses.
9. Attitudes & behavior-feelings & beliefs that predispose responses & are measurable.
10. Attribution theory-credits behavior either by situation or person’s disposition.
11. Avoidance learning-also known as escape learning-response to avoid unpleasant situations. Not in any textbook glossary.

I have used Myers for AP, & Thinking about Psychology for a few of the definitions, prior to shortening them. I strongly suggest this activity to encourage your students to create manageable definitions! Considering the massive number of vocabulary terms in the course, this method will enable your students to develop a strategy to assimilate the terms. I suggest using the Top 100 terms list as the learning tool. The students may work in teams and condense definitions together. This is a great activity for the beginning of the year. It also provides an introduction to all the areas of Psychology! \*\*This is also a great review activity before the AP Exam in May. Flash cards for each of these terms would also be beneficial!

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