

How to Write an Even Greater 2nd Essay for PNP 200

PNP 200, Spring 2008

Due: April 8, 4:45 pm

What is the assigned topic?

At the beginning of the course we discussed Marr's three levels of analysis. (See also pages 10-12 in Silverman & Friedberg.) In this assignment we would like you to consider one of the areas we have recently covered in the class in terms of the three levels. You may choose any of the following areas:

- Consciousness (WARNING—this is a hard one!)
- Perceptual organization/object perception
- Attention
- Memory
- The evolution of language

Within the area you choose, identify a particular topic and describe it in terms of Marr's three levels. Each of the areas affords a number of particular topics. For example, if you chose the area of attention, you might discuss visual search, spatial selective attention, cueing, channels, or capacity.

You should begin by describing Marr's three levels, focusing on whatever aspects are most relevant to the argument you wish to make about your topic. Based on what you have learned in this class and any outside materials you wish to use, provide a characterization of the topic at each of the three levels. Some levels may be harder than others. If so, what does this say about the tri-level hypothesis? Can you identify a strength or weakness of the tri-level hypothesis for thinking about Cognitive Science?

How should it be formatted?

Provide an informative title, your name and student ID number at the top of the first page. Please double space, and number your pages.

How do I cite others' writing?

If you refer to ideas in the textbooks, you should cite them using the following format: "(First-Author, page range)." For example, "Here is one citation (Thagard, 20-21); here is another (Friedenberg, 7)."

If you bring in material outside the textbooks you may use this simplified version of APA style:

- In the text, provide a citation of the form "(Author, Year, page range)", e.g. "Hochberg & Brooks, 1996, 207)"
- After the end of the essay, include a page titled "References," with one line for each work cited. Those lines should list the author(s), year published, and title. If the work is a journal article, also list the journal it was published in.

[please see over]

If you are more comfortable using strict APA style, Chicago style, or MLA style, you are welcome to do so.

How long should it be?

Your paper should be double-spaced, and should be between 4 and 6 pages in length, not including the reference page (if needed). (That is, it should end somewhere between the top of the 5th page and the bottom of the 6th page.)

How should I turn it in?

Please turn in your essays to the Philosophy Department office, Wilson Hall, Rm. 208. Be sure to hand it in to one of the office staff to put it in the folder for PNP 200. They generally lock up at 4:45 pm, so be sure to leave enough time to drop off your essay at the end of the day. Late work will receive a reduced grade.

Can you remind me when the essay is due?

Sure! April 8 at 4:45pm.