**Dr. Matthews PSYC 206 Integrative Essay #2**

**Due at 1:30 PM (sharp!), Thursday April 6th**

**Worth 100 Points**

Connecting the Dots: An Integrative, Self-Reflective Essay

This assignment embraces the framework for a liberal arts education described in [William Cronon’s essay “Only Connect”.](http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/cronon_only_connect.pdf)  Specifically, your essay will develop connections among our course’s Content, Skills, and Learning Context.

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| Content | **Levitin – Your Brain on Music**  A Book For a General Audience  (Provides Musical Background) | **Sacks – Musicophilia**  A Book For a General Audience  (Observational Research) | **Psychological Science**  Peer-Reviewed Articles  (Experimental Research) |
| Skills | **National Communication Assc.**  [Speech Evaluation Form](http://www.natcom.org/uploadedFiles/Teaching_and_Learning/Assessment_Resources/PDF-Competent_Speaker_Speech_Evaluation_Form_2ndEd.pdf) (p. 10)  Relevant to Your Presentations  (This course satisfies the “R” GE) | **National Communication Assc.**  [Conversational Skill Rating Form](https://dev.natcom.org/uploadedFiles/Teaching_and_Learning/Assessment_Resources/PDF-Conversation_Skills_Rating_Scale_2ndEd.pdf)  (p.28)  Relevant to Your Discussion-Leading  (This course satisfies the “R” GE) | **Music Performance:**  In-Class Singing  &  Polyrhythm Tapping |
| Learning  Context | **Course Mantras**  (Which are also Life Mantras)  These provide perspectives  on complex problem solving | **Course Learning Goals**  From our Syllabus | **Definition of Science**  (Our Epistemology) From the National Academy of Sciences |

Based on the nine above-shown items write a ~1,500 word essay that follows this format: Thesis 🡪 Demonstration 🡪 Conclusion. Please include “Thesis”, “Demonstration”, and “Conclusion” sub-titles in your essay. Your thesis and demonstration must incorporate, in a non-trivial way, some aspect of each of the above-shown nine items. The sequence in which the nine items appear in your essay is entirely your choice, and you do **NOT** need to incorporate all components within each of the nine boxes. (Example: You don’t have to discuss all four mantras, nor all five learning goals, etc.. One example from each box would be fine.) Your conclusion must follow logically from your thesis and demonstration. A reference section is NOT needed, unless you cite sources outside of those used in our class.

**Rubric:** Y**our grade will be based on novelty and persuasiveness of your prose, and on writing style (i.e., grammar, clarity, succinctness, organization, and transitions; see additional stylistic issues listed on the back of this page). Also, your grade will be based on how successfully you *integrate the above-shown disparate ideas.***

Use a ‘Times New Roman’ font, a ‘12’ point size and double spacing. **Your essay must be between 1,400-1,600 (inclusive) words in length. At the end of your essay, please report your word count. Example: “Word Count = 1,549”.** In MS Word, you can determine the word count by highlighting your text, and selecting “word count” from the “Review” tab. At 1:30 PM (sharp!) on the assigned day, an electronic copy of the writing assignment is due in Notebowl and an exactly matching paper copy is due in class.

Note: Your assignment should have a cover page indicating your **Slayter Box Number** (not your name), **Date**, **Integrative Essay 2**, **Dr. Matthews,** and **PSYC 206.** To avoid delays, print your essay at least several hours before it’s due. Also, the pages of the assignment must be stapled ***before*** coming to class. Please don’t be late. ☺

The assignment is worth 100 points of the 1,000 possible points for the course. Based on the above rubric, essays that I deem “satisfactory” for a course at an academically challenging college like ours will earn 72% of the 100 points. Your essay will earn more or fewer points to the extent that it, respectively, exceeds or falls short of that “satisfactory” standard.

Note: Although you may consult with [Denison’s Writing Center](https://my.denison.edu/web/home-community/campus-resources?gpi=10186), in all other ways you must work alone on this assignment. To earn any credit on this assignment, you must also participate in the Writing Workshop session.

**This is an opportunity to practice integrative complexity by pulling together the Content, Skills, and Learning Context for our course. Good luck, and most importantly, have fun with this assignment! ☺**

Feedback on Writing Style

**Micro Level – “Word” Issues**

1. **Spelling error**
2. **Plural / singular errors**
3. **Ineffective or incorrect punctuation**
4. **Inappropriate change in verb tense**
5. **Poor grammar**
6. **Omitted words/phrases or duplicate or extra words/phrases**
7. **Poor word-choice**
8. **Use subjunctive mood for hypotheticals -** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subjunctive\_mood**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subjunctive_mood)
9. **Redundant use of words (within a sentence or across sentences) without parallelism**
10. **Ineffective use of prepositions: Limit prepositions to no more than two between verbs.**
11. **Preposition at end of sentence: Reserve “stress position” (a sentence’s ending) for more impactful words.**
12. **Ambiguous pronoun use (e.g., to whom does “it”, “s/he”, or “they” refer?)**
13. **Use of “prove” or “proof” (reserve those for complete certainty, i.e., mathematical proof)**
14. **Locating the action - (s/b in the verb) –** [**Use action verbs**](http://www.stlcc.edu/Student_Resources/Academic_Resources/Writing_Resources/Grammar_Handouts/To-be-Verbs.pdf) **rather than “being” verbs such as “is” “are” “was” “were” “have” “had”. Avoid nominalizations.** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominalization**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominalization)
15. **Personification**

**Mid Level – “Sentence” Issues**

1. **Lapse in succinctness (limit sentences to no more than 35 words) (omit the phrase “in order”) See** [**1**](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/572/01/)**,** [**2**](https://twp.duke.edu/uploads/assets/clarity%20and%20conciseness.pdf)**,** [**3**](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/concise.htm)
2. **Lapse in clarity**
3. **Lapse in coherence or logic: A non-sequitur occurs when a conclusion does not follow from the premise(s).**
4. **Awkward phrasing or informal phrasing**
5. **Ambiguous comparison, ambiguous negation (“not A or B”), or incorrect negation (“all that glitters is not gold”).**
6. **Subject / verb separation – s/b short or zero. Also, minimize the separation between items being contrasted.**
7. **Lapse in parallelism -** [**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallelism\_(grammar)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallelism_(grammar))

**Macro Level – “Paragraph” Issues**

1. **Ineffective transition between sentences, or paragraphs - Put in the topical position old info that links back to the prior unit of discourse (sentence or paragraph). Put in the stress position new info that you want emphasize to the reader. Also avoid “pseudo transitions” - placing the topical sentence for one paragraph as last sentence in the preceding paragraph.**
2. **Poor organization at the paragraph level. Each paragraph should begin with a topical sentence. Each subsequent sentence must relate to the topical sentence. Each unit of discourse should make a single point: one idea per sentence, one theme per paragraph.**
3. **Idea requires additional development, evidence, or context**
4. **Emphasizes** [**summary**](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/summary-using-it-wisely/) **or opinion over** [**analysis**](https://www.agnesscott.edu/writingandspeaking/files/documents/W13%20Summary%20versus%20Analysis.pdf)**, synthesis, or** [**argument**](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/argument/)**. (Connect; Compare / Contrast; Pros / Cons)**