5 small ideas for writing assignments
Don’t let it interfere with good teaching

- Ensuring academic integrity can be costly (time, energy)
Prioritize thinking over facts

What are you surprised by, and why?
What does this remind you of?
What are you still unsure about?
Why do you think… (things are this way)?
How does this relate to what you already know about?
What claims would you challenge?
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Challenging for genAI because…
difficult to get genAI to write “I” statements
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**Supports learning because...**
students make connections, which supports understanding & memory

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Rubric for end-of-semester project

3 Peer Reviewed Resources Discussed
Findings and/or ideas of at least 3 peer-reviewed resources are discussed - at least 3 sentences for each resource - must relate to sensation and perception concepts - all resources cited within text and included in References list

Not scored / 150

Add Feedback

Your Sensation & Perception Ideas Included
Such as... - What you have learned by researching the topic (beyond facts presented in resources) - How topic relates to your own life or what you think or believe - Educated guesses for unanswered questions or informal theories about phenomenon discussed

Not scored / 150

Add Feedback

Total Score / 300

50%
Ask for explicit connections to the course

- to course materials, class discussion, lecture, etc.
Ask for explicit connections to the course

- to course materials, class discussion, lecture, etc.
Ask students to relate to their lives

- daily life, pop culture, beliefs, background, future career, etc.
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- daily life, pop culture, beliefs, background, future career, etc.

Challenging for genAI because…

genAI doesn’t have access

Supports learning because…

connections made to the self are especially potent for memory
If **background knowledge** is **glue**, information about the **self** is **super glue**.
Class Discussion #1

Instructions

Select one of the following thought questions to respond to. Then, find its corresponding thread in the comments area below. Each prompt is listed in green font. Be sure to click "Reply" just below it to keep your comment within the thread for that item.

Then, please post at least 2 responses to your fellow classmates' original postings. Please be sure to respond to at least 1 classmate who selected a different prompt than you did. In that way, you get to engage with at least 2 different prompts.

You should have a total of at least 3 postings each week (1 main post and 2 responses to other students' main posts).

Please note that many of our weekly discussion prompts encourage you to explore your senses. If you have a sensory impairment that precludes you from participating in the prompt of your choice, please reach out to me so we can come up with a suitable variation.

1. Programming a Computer
Speculate as to why you think it is more difficult to program a computer to see than to play chess. Why do you suppose it is easier for us to see than to learn to play chess?

2. Adaptive Senses
Pick one of our senses and describe 1) why it is adaptive (beneficial) to our lives to have, and 2) what is enjoyable about it?

3. Problem of Perception
How do you suppose the visual system has managed to overcome the problem of perception?

4. Naive realism
What is your take on naive realism? Is the world really what it appears to be or is it just a function of our senses and perception?

5. Blind Spot
Why, do you suppose, the perceptual system fills in the blind spot rather than perceiving a blank space?
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Class Discussion #3

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You should have a total of at least 3 postings each week (1 main post and 2 responses to other students' main posts).

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1. **Gestalt principles of object perception**
   Spend a day taking note of any Gestalt principles of object perception in action as you take in your visual world. Discuss at least two principles and how you observed each.

2. **Figure ground**
   We talked about 3 characteristics of figures in the figure ground images (symmetry, size, and meaningfulness). Pick one of these 3 and discuss why it makes the figure seem to be more object-like.

3. **Bottom-up and top-down processing**
   Spend a day taking note of bottom-up and top-down processing in your visual perception of objects. Describe at least one example from your day including the bottom-up and top-down processing involved.

4. **Evolution of Color Vision**
   What do you suppose led to the evolution of color vision? Why do you suppose we need to be able to see color?
Make learning fun & interesting

- Drives authentic engagement
Make learning fun & interesting

- Drives authentic engagement

Challenging for genAI because…
not as fun to use

Supports learning because…
students more likely to pursue course topics
Class Discussion #1

All Sections

Please pick one of the following items to respond to. Then, find it in green font below, within the comments area, and be sure to click "Reply" just below it to keep your comment within the thread for that item. You are more than welcome to respond to more than one item. You are also welcome and encouraged to respond to another student's posting in addition to or in place of your own posting.

At least one thoughtful posting in response to one of the prompts (or a response to another student's posting) is required. It should reflect your understanding of the prompt topic. In other words, tell us something interesting!

1. Natural Flaws in Thinking
   Pay attention this week for any instances of where you or someone else (e.g., family member, friend, etc.) demonstrate a natural flaw in thinking. Tell us which flaw it was and what happened.

2. Characteristics of Good Scientists
   Which characteristic of a good scientist (skepticism, open-mindedness, objectivity, empiricism, creativity or communication) is most important and why?

3. Pseudoscientific Claims
   Go to the supermarket and find a product that makes a potentially pseudoscientific claim about itself (e.g., 9 out of 10 kids love Cereal X, etc.) and take a picture of it with your phone. Share the picture here and tell us at least one question you have about the claim and how you think the manufacturer may have obtained that information.

4. Sources of Science
   Go to the ScienceDaily website and check out the day’s Top Science News. Or take a look at your favorite source for scientific news. How does the research presented fit with the characteristics of science presented in Chapter 1 of the text?

5. You Pick
   Is there a different topic that interested you in the recent course material? Give it a title in your post and then tell us about it. Why does it interest you?
Ok, I have several questions for this claim that Meta Mucil is the #1 doctor recommended brand. First, how many doctors were polled? What kind of doctors are they, and what do they specialize in? Were they polled nationally, or throughout a specific region? Is it the #1 recommendation because of brand recognition or popularity? Or because of the quality of contents/ingredients? Or because of the longevity of this particular company? If I personally had to guess how the manufacturer went about obtaining this claim of being the number one recommended product from doctors in this category, I would assume that they used some sort of consultant company that specializes in these types of surveys. From what I have learned from my husband, who works in the field of marketing, is that many well-known brands and companies pay a significant amount of money for a third party firm to come in and orchestrate these types of reviews and surveys. I would ask though, isn't in the best interest of all those involved within this process to have a positive outcome? Perhaps if the results are negative, the advice given from the consultants is on what Meta Mucil needs to change in order to receive that #1 spot from doctors? I'm not totally sure of the process, but it's interesting to think about. Big claims such as these should have some sort of asterisk explaining their findings.
Ok, I have several questions for this claim that Meta Mucil is the #1 doctor recommended laxative. Who was polled? What kind of doctors are they, and what do they specialize in? Were they from a specific region? Is it the #1 recommendation because of brand recognition or popularity? Is it the #1 recommendation because of its constituents/ingredients? Or because of the longevity of this particular company? If I personally know the manufacturer went about obtaining this claim of being the number one recommended laxative in its category, I would assume that they used some sort of consultant company that specialize in these kinds of things. And also, it would pay a significant amount of money for a third party firm to come in and orchestrate this type of marketing campaign. I would ask though, isn't it in the best interest of all those involved within this process to be honest? If the results are negative, the advice given from the consultants is on what Meta Mucil needs to do to become the #1 spot from doctors? I'm not totally sure of the process, but it's interesting to think that the company should have some sort of asterisk explaining their findings.

Alright so, I was looking around the home for things that I have bought recently and I found this tape. Scotch Magic Tape.... oooooh Magic! Just for giggles, I turned it over to make sure it didn't claim anything ridiculous, and low and behold this tape is apparently the preferred tape for offices, home offices, and schools. Some questions that popped into my head were as follows: How many schools did they ask? If they loved this tape? Just how many offices use this tape for them to make this claim? Did they do any research to back this up or are they just assuming it's offices and schools buying up all their tape and not carpenters, painters, a teen hanging things on their wall, or kids who like crafts? Now, if it's not just a general assumption that its offices and schools buying up all the supply than I would assume they did some polling and collected survey data from users of this tape but if not, its just an assumption based on the idea that offices and schools would use substantially more tape than others would
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