Critical Thinking Questions (CTQs)
PSYC 1B: Biological Psychology
Tu, Th 11:20-12:40 p.m. (10149)—SS 210
Fall 2012

Review the 6 steps to writing strong CTQ answers on the syllabus and the CTQ Example Answer on my website in order to maximize the quality of your CTQ answers. The best CTQ answers are usually (1) a third of a page or longer, (2) detailed, (3) directly and specifically answer the CTQ, and (4) include what you think (not just what the book says). Use your own words as much as possible when typing your answers (don’t just quote from the textbook), and when examples are asked for or necessary, give ones that you made up (not the ones in the textbook). Don’t repeat the CTQ—just give the answer only.

Chapter 1: There is much ethical debate about the use of animals in research. Are you for or against using animals in research?—if for, why? If against, why?

Chapter 2: What is the purpose of the blood-brain barrier, and what things could happen if it fails to do its job? What difficulties does the blood-brain barrier pose?

Chapter 3: What are the differences and similarities between Type I and Type II alcoholism? What are the risk factors for alcoholism?

Chapter 4: A man jumps in front of you with a gun demanding all of your money now! Which part of the autonomic nervous system comes into action and why? Once the threat passes, what other part of the autonomic nervous system takes over, and what does it do?

Chapter 5: What is phantom limb, and what causes it? What seems to reduce or eliminate phantom limb pain sensations?

Chapter 6: Describe visual agnosia and prosopagnosia. If you had to be afflicted with one of these problems, which would it be and why?

Chapter 7: What two neurotransmitters under what pain levels are released by pain axons into the spinal cord? What would happen if a person lacked receptors for one of the neurotransmitters (be sure to name the neurotransmitter you’re focusing on).

Chapter 8: Describe the differences between fast-twitch and slow-twitch fibers and why one fatigues much faster than the other. What would be an example of a sport/activity that primarily uses fast-twitch fibers, and a sport/activity that primarily uses slow-twitch fibers?

Chapter 9: Describe the similarities and differences between Periodic Limb Movement Disorder and REM Behavior Disorder? Which of these two would be more problematic to you and why?

Chapter 10: Describe the cause of osmotic and hypovolemic thirst and what behavior each leads to.

Chapter 11: Do you believe sexual orientation is something one is born with, learns, or comes by some other way?—whatever answer you give, support it with detail.

Chapter 12: What are the effects of stress on the immune system and what health problems can occur? When you’re stressed-out, how does it affect you?

Chapter 13: What are the similarities and differences between anterograde amnesia and retrograde amnesia? Which of the two amnesias would be more problematic to you and why?

Chapter 14: Describe Wernicke’s aphasia and what impact it would have on a person’s life.

Chapter 15: Describe the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia (giving specific examples) and how these symptoms can cause problems for a person.