

PSYCH1140: Outlining & in-class discussion

Thursday, 10 February 2022

I. Revisiting assignment 1 & 2 - essay prompts

Consider these two essay prompts:

Assignment 1:

Based on the readings, what is one important property of the brain that allows us to process and make sense of experience? Does this property suggest that representations of past events (memory) are the same as representations of future plans? Discuss two pieces of evidence from the reading that support your position.

Assignment 2:

Answer this broad question: what do you think is the importance of having memories about past events?

In thinking about your answer, consider the following questions:

Based on all the readings you've read so far, an important property of the brain that helps us process our lifetime's worth of experience is that it is predictive. How does the brain use stored episodic memories to make predictions for imagining events in the distant future and processing events that are currently ongoing? What does this characterization of the predictive brain suggest about how we understand events? For example, knowing that the brain makes predictions based on stored event memories,

what does this imply about the kinds of future events that one can imagine? What do you think will happen if one encounters an event that one has never experienced before?

Which do you think is better? And why?

Are there any parts of the prompt in assignment 2 that could be improved?

Individually, spend 5 minutes to create an outline for assignment 2. This outline can be in bullet form or written down. Upload a copy of this outline to canvas by the end of today (Thursday, 10 February 11:59PM).

II. Discussion - false memory

What do you think constitutes false memories? Reflect on your own experience, have you ever had a false memory?

Based on the reading on Tuesday, what could be the mechanism that causes false memory formation?

Based on today's reading, what could be the mechanism of false memory?

What do you think phenomena such as false memory tell us about our memory? Are they stable? Can we trust our memory? Spend some time answering this question in one paragraph and upload it as a discussion post on canvas.