

## AP Psych – Learning – Minion Training (Despicable Me Style)

**NOTE TO STUDENTS:** In all aspects of this assignment it is important that you use the vocabulary specific to AP Psychology and connect it to the ridiculous examples that you will be providing. Show that you know the relevant content. As you begin this assignment, please remember to keep a few things in mind. First, you must consider the fact that you are evil and attempting to be a super-villain. If you weren't, then why would you need an army of minions?

### **Basic Outline of Content:**

- Classical Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning
- Observational Learning

A **minion** is a follower devoted to serve his/her master/mistress relentlessly.

You, as a super-villain, need an army of tiny, yellow, loyal yet childish and funny, genetically-mutated henchmen. The Minions mostly speak their own gobbledygook-like language called "Minionese", although they do appear to understand English. They have existed since the beginning of time, evolving from single yellow cell organisms into beings, and who have only one purpose - "to seek out and serve the most despicable master they can find."

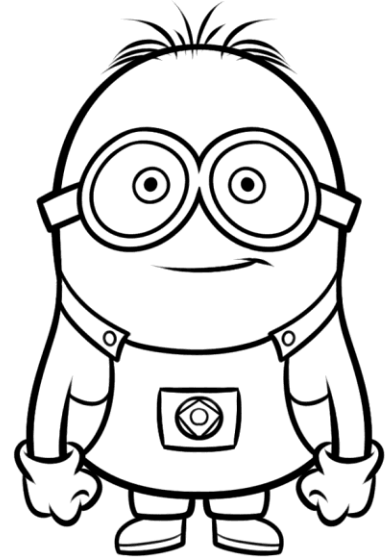
However, some of you minions are quite young, and are attending the Minion Academy for the Despicable Arts. As a super-villain, you must help your minions learn all the skills and tendencies that will support your villainous efforts.

The Minions have standard English-style names. Mentioned in the films and other media are Dave, Stuart, Kevin, Jerry, Carl, Phil, Paul, Jorge, Tim, Donny, Mark, Lance, Tom, John, Steve, and Bob.

You will be asked to draw up plans that utilize **classical conditioning**, **operant conditioning** and **observational learning**.

For the two types of associative learning (classical conditioning and operant conditioning), it may be helpful to know some things that minions like. Minions have an uncontrollable craving for fruits, especially apples and bananas (and particularly the latter). They also appear to have a strange obsession with butts (evident by photocopying their own butts in the first film, then laughing). You may be required to make up some fun and ridiculous things that the minions hate—maybe create their own form of "taste aversion."

1. You will need to consider what exactly do your minions need to be able to do? Research different super-villain goals from comic book and animation history, which will help you, devise a devious plan of your own. In the space provided, describe your devious plan:
2. In the space provided, brainstorm a list of skills you would like to have your minions to have. You will only be required to devise a plan for 3-7 of them. You can always do more. However, astonish me with your creativity for the different minion skills:



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## CLASSICAL CONDITIONING

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3. Explain in a sentence what devious minion skill you will be training the minions with classical conditioning and a brief description of how. Please use as much **AP Psych vocabulary** as possible:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Create a classical conditioning comic that shows the different parts of classical conditioning. For this assignment, you will create a comic strip that depicts a classical conditioning of your choice for your minion training. The strip does not necessarily have to be funny, but remember you are a super villain. The comic strip should contain at least 5 “slides”, each with a colored picture and a caption that accurately depicts the classical conditioning process. Additionally, one of the extensions of classical conditioning (**extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, discrimination**) should also be shown. Be sure to use all the fancy classical conditioning **terminology associated with AP Psychology. This part of the assignment will be done on a separate sheet of blank computer paper.** Draw a rough sketch of your comic below.

## OPERANT CONDITIONING

5. Explain in a sentence what devious minion skill you will be training the minions with operant conditioning and a brief description of how. Please use as much **AP Psych vocabulary** as possible:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Create a operant conditioning comic that shows the different parts of operant conditioning. For this assignment, you will create a comic strip that depicts a operant conditioning, with a reinforcement AND a punishment, of your choice for your minion training. The strip does not necessarily have to be funny, but remember you are a super villain. The comic strip should contain at least 5 “slides”, each with a colored picture and a caption that accurately depicts the operant conditioning process (**plus which schedule of reinforcement you will be using, or how you used extinction, generalization**). Be sure to use all the fancy classical conditioning **terminology associated with AP Psychology. This part of the assignment will be done on a separate sheet of blank computer paper.** Draw a rough sketch of your comic below

## OBSERVATIONAL LEARNING

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7. Explain in a sentence what devious minion skill you will be training the minions with observational learning:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Think about the Bobo Doll experiment. If you have not already seen video of this experiment, find a video online. Then provide a detailed description of how you are going to manipulate your minions with observational learning. Use as much **AP Psych vocabulary** as possible: