



AP[®] Psychology 2002 Sample Student Responses

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Egocentrism is a selfish view in which a person views himself as the most important part of a situation. Jessie may have thought that the field trip was made solely because of her interest in the fire station. Observational learning occurs when a person becomes acquainted with a task by watching another person perform the task. Jessie may have learned how to slide down a pole by watching the firemen demonstrate how to. Overgeneralization in language occurs when a person applies a rule of grammar to all instances and does not take into account any exceptions to the rule. Rather than saying "I went to the fire station," Jessie may have said "I goed to the fire station." This mistake would be an overgeneralization because Jessie added the suffix "-ed" to "go" ~~to~~ in order to make it past tense. Reconstructive memory is supplying information that you think is appropriate when actual facts cannot be recalled in a story. Jessie may not have remembered what she had for lunch and therefore told her brother that she ate a peanut butter and strawberry jelly sandwich when in fact it was a peanut butter and grape jelly sandwich. A schema is a mental set for categorizing objects and providing order to the world. Jessie may have a schema for classifying all four-legged, black and white spotted things as cows. If she had seen a dalmatian at the fire station, she may have assimilated it into her schema and called it a cow. She may have also accommodated for the difference and begun a new schema for dogs or dalmatians.

• Egocentrism: the belief that you are the best, or what you believe in is the best. You and everything you believe in is the best and is the right way.

Jessie might have thought and said that she could be the best firefighter. Then another example of the use of egocentrism could be that what she did and saw, was better than anything that any other person had ever witnessed. She had went through the best.

• Observational learning: to learn through ^(by) observation. (monkey see; monkey do) She might have saw how to turn on the engine of a fire truck so she then might want to show her brother how to do it and then maybe experience it by starting up a car.

• Overregularization: to overexaggerate to make something sound like more than it really is. Jessie might have said that all the firefighters were big and stronger than anything. Maybe some were pretty big and strong, but they probably aren't the biggest and strongest things ever. She pretty much just generalized all the men (firefighters) as strong and that might not be the case.

• Reconstructive memory: to not remember something fully and then just make up the missing pieces OR to make some something sound or fit better. Jessie could have said the building was bright red and new/clean. When in reality she didn't really remember the exact color she just went off what she recalled from an old movie and substituted that. It could have been clean and new or that could also be something she reconstructed to make everything fit.

• Schema: to go off the subject because you want to sound more interesting. She could have schemed a little by just telling a story a firefighter told her and maybe

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she really was told a story but she would have spiced it up a bit.

Egocentrism - Jessie's ego's must have believed that going to the fire station was the greatest thing. Makes it seem more important

Observational learning - By Jessie going to the fire station she is learning by observing the firemen she get to see adults and learn from their actions.

Overregularization or overgeneralization in language - Jessie's story will become exaggerated because of the importance she sees in the fire station. So what she tells her brother will be a stretch of the truth.

Reconstructive memory - By telling her brother about what happened she will be walking back through what she did today to retell it to her brother.

Schema