

**Advanced Placement Psychology**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Summer 2019**

*Man's Search for Meaning*

Viktor Frankl

**Assignment:**

All students entering AP Psychology in the fall 2019 must do the following assignment. The assignment is due the first FULL day of class, **September 5**. **ANY LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This assignment will be the first assignment entered into the gradebook in September, and you will need to have completed this assignment to participate in our discussions about the text. As such, it is imperative that you arrive with this assignment completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Adkins at [jeremy.adkins@ssfs.org](mailto:jeremy.adkins@ssfs.org).

The class will focus on the following skills for this text: **contextualization, perspective, continuity and change, and analysis.**

**Contextualization**

*Using your prior knowledge, respond to the following:*

- 1) Who were the Nazis and when did they come to power?
- 2) Describe Nazi opinions on Judaism and Jews.
- 3) Describe what happened to the Jews during World War Two.
- 4) What word is now used to describe this period of Jewish persecution and what does the word mean?

**Perspective**

*Use your text to respond to the following prompts. You must cite the **page numbers** where you found your answers.*

- 1) Describe Viktor Frankl's entrance into Auschwitz. How did his mental and physical state allow him the opportunity of existential reflection? (at least 100 words)
- 2) How did Frankl and his fellow Jews in the concentration camps find humor? Does this humor bother you? Why or why not? (at least 75 words)

3) What key factor does Frankl believe controlled whether an inmate lived or died? How does he believe he survived his episode of typhus? What quote from Friedrich Nietzsche did he use to describe living? (at least 100 words)

4) How did the camps change the behavior of the following people described in Frankl's text? (at least 250 words)

- a) The Jewish inmates
- b) the Nazi guards
- c) the Capos

### **Continuity and Change**

1) From Frankl's perspective, an inmate in a concentration camp encountered three specific phases. What are these phases?

2) How do these phases affect the psyche of a person?

3) Why do humans respond to suffering in this manner?

4) Describe the effects of suffering on Frankl and his fellow Jews. How does Frankl explain why some inmates fought through suffering, and others succumbed to the suffering?

### **Analysis**

*In 2 to 5 sentences each, respond to the prompts. Cite the **page numbers** where you found your answers.*

1) Define and describe *logotherapy*:

2) What is the "existential vacuum," and why does Frankl believe it is a 20<sup>th</sup> century problem?

3) How does Frankl believe one can find true meaning in life? Do you agree or disagree with him?

4) Why does Frankl believe suffering can actually lead us to human greatness?

5) According to Frankl, do we have control over our life, or do our lives dictate our paths? Use **evidence** from the text to support your analysis.

6) When humans lose the will to find meaning, how does Frankl believe they respond?

7) In your opinion, is there meaning in suffering?

8) In your opinion, why is love so critical to our existence?

9) *"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms--to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."*

What is Frankl trying to say? Do you agree or disagree? Does this quotation remind you of any periods of your life?

10) *“Since Auschwitz, we know what man is capable of. Since Hiroshima, we know what is at stake.”*

Explain this quotation, and what you think Frankl is challenging us to do.