

Assignment directions:

Operant conditioning is one of the most commonly-used behaviorist techniques. Who hasn't seen a parent give a child a treat after doing a good job? Have you ever noticed how a well-timed frown or raised eyebrow from a parent can stop a child's misbehavior in its tracks? Employers often give raises with the hope of maintaining good employees. That gold star or "Good work!" from a teacher is often designed to bolster performance. These are all examples of operant conditioning at work!

Since operant conditioning is so prevalent, it is important to be able use it well. Therefore, for this Assignment, you will write a 4-6 page essay that describes how you would apply operant conditioning to a specific case.

Select one of the following behaviors:

- Teaching a puppy to stop biting
- Getting a teenager to clean his/her room
- Working with a child on the autism spectrum to make eye contact with an adult
- Working with a client to reduce self-injury behavior

In your essay, be sure to do the following:

- Briefly recap and describe the target behavior you wish to shape.
- Break the behavior down into the manageable parts that you will shape (list each part).
- Evaluate a minimum of four specific reinforcers that could be used to shape behaviors; select the most appropriate one.
- Describe at least two factors that you need to consider when selecting a reinforcer and why you selected the reinforcer you chose.
- Using the behavioral parts and the selected reinforcer, describe the process that you will use to shape the target behavior.
- Discuss how you will balance eventually removing tangible reinforcement while preventing extinction during shaping.

This paper should be between 4-6 pages in length. A minimum of three resources should be used for the Assignment. The paper should:

- Follow Assignment directions (review grading rubric which is on the next page =).
 - Use correct APA formatting per the current edition of the APA Publication Manual.
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Assignment Criteria	Level III	Level II	Level I	Not Present
Criteria 1	Level III Max Points Points: 14	Level II Max Points Points: 11	Level I Max Points Points: 8	Not Present 0 Points
Target Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes target behavior • Lists individual behaviors, within the target behavior, that can be shaped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes target behavior, but lacks relevant details • Lists individual behaviors, within the target behavior, that can be shaped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes target behavior, but lacks relevant details • Lists individual behaviors that can be shaped, but does not align with target behavior 	Assignment does not meet the minimum criteria.
Criteria 2	Level III Max Points Points: 14	Level II Max Points Points: 11	Level I Max Points Points: 8	Not Present 0 Points
Reinforcers	Assignment addresses all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates at least 4 specific reinforcers used to shape behaviors • Describes at least 2 factors to consider when selecting a reinforcer • Explains why the reinforcer was selected 	Assignment addresses a majority of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates at least 4 specific reinforcers used to shape behaviors • Describes at least 2 factors to consider when selecting a reinforcer • Explains why the reinforcer was selected 	Assignment addresses less than half of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates at least 4 specific reinforcers used to shape behaviors • Describes at least 2 factors to consider when selecting a reinforcer • Explains why the reinforcer was selected 	Assignment does not meet the minimum criteria.
Criteria 3	Level III Max Points Points: 28	Level II Max Points Points: 24	Level I Max Points Points: 18	Not Present 0 Points
Shaping Target Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the process used to shape behavior, including using behavioral parts and the selected reinforcer • Discusses preventing extinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the process used to shape behavior, including using behavioral parts and the selected reinforcer, but lacks relevant details • Discusses preventing extinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the process used to shape behavior, including using behavioral parts and the selected reinforcer, but lacks relevant details • Does not discuss preventing extinction 	Assignment does not meet the minimum criteria.
Criteria 4	Level III Max Points Points: 7	Level II Max Points Points: 5	Level I Max Points Points: 4	Not Present 0 Points
Writing and Mechanics	Writing includes all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets assignment requirements (4-6 pages) • Clear and logical organization; • Paragraphs and sentences are well developed. • Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation 	Writing includes a majority of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets assignment requirements (4-6 pages) • Clear and logical organization; • Paragraphs and sentences are well developed. • Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation 	Writing includes less than half of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets assignment requirements (4-6 pages) • Clear and logical organization; • Paragraphs and sentences are well developed. • Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation 	Assignment does not meet the minimum criteria.
Criteria 5	Level III Max Points Points: 7	Level II Max Points Points: 5	Level I Max Points Points: 4	Not Present 0 Points
APA Style	APA Style includes all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly written in Standard English. • References or academic sources as required, including in-text citation(s). • Paraphrased correctly and accurately; direct quotes used minimally. • Formatted correctly using either APA style or provided template. 	APA Style includes a majority of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly written in Standard English. • References or academic sources as required, including in-text citation(s). • Paraphrased correctly and accurately; direct quotes used minimally. • Formatted correctly using either APA style or provided template. 	APA Style includes less than half of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly written in Standard English. • References or academic sources as required, including in-text citation(s). • Paraphrased correctly and accurately; direct quotes used minimally. • Formatted correctly using either APA style or provided template. 	Assignment does not meet the minimum criteria.
Maximum Total Points	70	56	42	0
Minimum Total Points	57	43	1 point minimum	0