

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Student: Diya Dipak  
Course: Fundamentals of Neuroscience  
Date: This evaluation was prepared on November 7, 2022

Diya was a student in the class I taught on Fundamentals of Neuroscience in the summer of 2022 in the School of Professional Studies pre-college program at Columbia University. In this course, students studied the neural processes and mechanisms that underlie physiology, cognition, and behavior. This interdisciplinary field combines concepts from psychology and biology to help us understand how the brain and its various functions drive perception, movement, and cognition. Additionally, we considered the ethical implications of neuroscientific research.

Diya was an excellent student and she has a very bright academic future. She attended class regularly, contributed to the class discussions with smart questions and observations, and worked well with her fellow students. For example, in her final class assignment, she and three students reviewed the scientific literature on a topic in visual perception and neuroscience called Visual Search. Visual Search is a perceptual task in which subjects scan the visual environment for a particular object – such as when we look for a familiar face in a crowd or look for a book on a bookshelf. Diya and her group members researched the topic, conducted an experiment in class, and analyzed the data. Diya and her group then delivered an effective slide presentation using Google Slides, in which Diya was confident and clear in her verbal presentation to the class.

Diya also performed an individual project by researching a published scientific paper of her choice on a neuroscience topic. The paper was entitled, “Predisposition to and effects of methamphetamine use on the adolescent brain.” Diya did an excellent job of critically reading the paper, and she did a great job in presenting the main points of the paper to the class using Google Slides. In her presentation, she included a thoughtful discussion of the paper’s background, methods, main results, and take-home messages.

Diya was enthusiastic about the class and the overall learning experience. Her emails to me were thoughtful and intelligent, always aimed at learning the materials and being able to effectively present them to her fellow students.

I am confident that Diya would excel at a top-caliber college like Columbia and I strongly recommend her.

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