



**My
Writing
Coach**

Assignment

Making an Inference from Informational Text

Topic: Pavlov's Dogs

Your Assignment:

Read the research report below. Then answer this question.

What inference can be made about what the author thinks about the importance of Pavlov's findings on the benefits to humans?

Pavlov's Dogs

By Gary P.

Ivan Pavlov was a Russian physiologist who became renowned for an experiment he conducted in the 19th century with his own dogs. Pavlov was notable for his work studying classical conditioning.

Pavlov began measuring how much his dogs would salivate, or drool, when given food. When the dogs saw or smelled food, they would start to salivate as they knew it was time to eat; this is known as an unconditional response. The dogs' bodies would naturally salivate as this helps the body break down the food that they are about to eat. Over time the dogs would start to salivate when they saw Pavlov's lab assistant. Pavlov had realized the dogs had learned to connect the two experiences; seeing the lab assistant would always lead to food and eating. After many trials the dogs would salivate when they saw

the assistant even if no food was present, which again is automatic behavior (learned behavior).

Pavlov decided to take the experiment a step further and was curious if the dogs would react to the sound of a metronome (a device that makes a regular noise like a bell).

Pavlov would turn the device on just moments before he gave the dogs food. After this started to become a daily routine, the dogs would start to salivate as soon as they heard the familiar noise of the bell because the dogs were learning new automatic behavior and that the sound of the bell signified food.

Taking it even one step further, Pavlov eventually would turn the device on (ring the bell) but not present any food, and the dogs would still salivate at the sound of the bell. The dogs had been conditioned that the sound of the bell meant food. If this pattern of the bell ringing and no food arriving would have continued for any long period of time the dogs would eventually be conditioned once more the noise of the bell is not associated with food and the salivating would naturally stop when the bell rang.

Pavlov was one of the first people to study the basic laws of learning and his findings became known as classical conditioning. Classical conditioning gave scientists all over the world a new and better understanding of how the human mind works. It has also helped to treat or ease health conditions such as phobias, addictions, and anxieties.

Stem Starters:

You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.

Pavlov's findings in his studies show that...

The author thinks that Pavlov's study is _____ because...

The author explains Pavlov's study because...

I can infer that the author thinks...

Your Response:

