



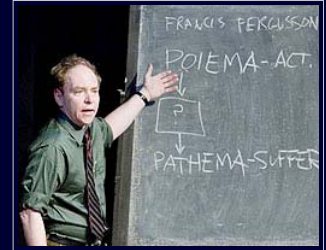
TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

THIS BLOG IS A RESOURCE FOR ANY TEACHER OF HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, WHETHER ADVANCED PLACEMENT OR INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

Teller - Cognitive Psychology of Magic

Anyone seen a Penn and Teller show? I'd love to see them live someday, but until then I'll just continue to read and be fascinated by their original, skeptical perspective on the universe. This article from *WIRED* about the connections Teller sees between magic, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience might be a great way to "wind down" after the AP exam? Fascinating stuff about how magicians use principles from perception to "fool" audiences. There is a group of neuroscientists at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona working with magicians to identify these principles (the group already published their research in *Nature*)



Here's a quote that provides a sense of what the article is about:

"By reverse-engineering these deceptions, Macknik hopes to illuminate the mental loopholes that make us see a woman get sawed in half or a rabbit appear out of thin air even when we know such stuff is impossible. Magicians were taking advantage of these cognitive illusions long before any scientist identified them."

POSTED BY ROB MC AT 11:27 AM
 LABELS: MAGIC NEUROSCIENCE PERCEPTION ILLUSIONS

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