

Assignment #1: Basic Principles of Information Processing
Due Date: September 4, 2008

Goal for this assignment: demonstrate your understanding of the principles of information processing by pointing out those features in a model of another cognitive process.

In Chapter 1 of Levelt (1989; Speaking: From intention to articulation), the basic components of all information processing systems are described. Levelt further illustrates how those principles are implemented in his model of speech production.

In this assignment you should describe how the basic principles of information processing systems are implemented in the modal model of memory (Atkinson & Shiffrin, 1968). Pages 125-135 of the Friedenberg & Silverman text provide a *brief* description of the modal model of memory, but I ***strongly*** recommend that you find another source (or two) for a more complete description of the model. If you use additional sources (I ***strongly*** recommend that you do) the reference should take the following form:

Last name of Author(s) and their initials. (year the journal was published). Title of the article.
Title of the Journal, Issue number of the journal, page numbers of the article.

Here is an example of how the reference should appear:

Vitevitch, M.S. & Stamer, M.K. (2006). The curious case of competition in Spanish speech production. *Language & Cognitive Processes*, 21, 760-770.

Your paper should be typed, with 1-inch margins all around, and 12 point font size. You are welcome (and **encouraged**) to submit your answer via e-mail instead of handing in a paper copy; electronic copies/attachments should be saved in RICH-TEXT-FORMAT ***only***. Your full name and your KUID should appear in a header, or at the top of each page you submit.

A good answer to this question will: (1) define the basic characteristics of a classic human information-processing system (i.e., a system that manipulates symbols), ***and*** (2) clearly illustrate how each of these characteristics is (*or is not*) present in the modal model of memory.

A few reminders:

- Take advantage of the resources available to you at the KU Writing Center.
- Make a friend in class and engage in peer-review/discussion with a colleague.
- Talk with me during office hours/appointments.