Do Now:

• How do you believe you are taught right from wrong?
Operant Conditioning

Write Everything in White
Basic Premise of it.

• Created by B.F. Skinner
• Argued that Classical Conditioning was far too simplistic to compensate for all learning forms.
• Yet, remember, this man was a behaviorist
• Created the Skinner Box
  • Not as Horrible as it sounds
3 Main Concepts

• Neutral Operants
  • Responses to the environment that don’t really change behavior

• Reinforcers
  • Actions which increase chances of a behavior happening
  • Positive or Negative

• Punishers
  • Actions that decrease the likelihood of a behavior repeating
  • Positive or Negative
Positive Reinforcement

• Strengthens a behavior by providing a consequence an individual finds rewarding

• Example: Each time you complete your homework you get a small piece of candy.
Negative Reinforcement

• The removal of an unpleasant reinforcer/action/consequence can strengthen a behavior.
• Remember this DOES NOT mean the reinforcement of bad behavior.
• It is THE REMOVAL of an unpleasant reinforcer.
• Example: If you complete your homework you avoid giving up a piece of candy.
Punishment

• The opposite of reinforcement
• Either the removal of something
  • Taking away a phone
  • Taking away a car
  • Taking away money
• Or the direct application of something,
  • Corporal punishment
  • Time Outs
  • Shocks
A few Things of Note

• Punished behavior is not forgotten
• It is merely suppressed for a time and can return
• Possibly causes increased aggression
• Can create a generalized fear of something
• Only tells you what not to do, not what to do
Comparison to Classical Conditioning

• In a paragraph compare and contrast classical and operant conditioning. Which do you think is more accurate to the world we live in? Do you agree with Skinner’s idea that Classical Conditioning is too simple? Why or why not?