

Psychology 145, Fall 2006, Homework #4
11/21/06

Read and respond to the following short article about the language abilities of a border collie named Rico:

Kaminski, J., Call, J., & Fischer, J. (2004). Word learning in a domestic dog: Evidence for “fast mapping”. *Science*, 304, 1682–1683.

A .pdf of the article is currently available on the course webpage:

http://psy.ucsd.edu/~slevc/psy145/dog_words_04.pdf

If you find the article convincing, then propose a follow-up experiment (or two) to determine if Rico has acquired any other aspects of human language. If you aren't convinced by the data, then explain why and then propose an experiment or two that could provide convincing evidence.

You don't need to specify your experiment in great detail, but make sure you clearly state your hypotheses, methods, and the results that your competing hypotheses predict.

This assignment is due in class on Tuesday, November 30th.