

## Paper

Lettvin, J. Y., Maturana, H. R., McCulloch, W. S., Pitts, W. H. “What the Frog's Eye Tells the Frog's Brain”, Chapter 7 in *The Mind: Biological Approaches to Its Functions*, Corning, W.C., Balaban, M., Eds., 1968, 233-258.

WRT: 1.0 hours

## Assignment, Part I

On a total of one side of one sheet of paper, using 10 pt type or larger, with standard interline spacing and margins, respond to all the following:

- Pretend you are Lettvin. Exhibit bullets of the sort you would put on two slides: one labeled **Context** (not Introduction), focused on vision–step–news, and another labeled **Contributions**, (not Conclusions). Be sure to exhibit what you consider an interesting detail, but otherwise, keep the idea and word count to a minimum. When you think you are done, be sure to review your slides from the salient–slogan–symbol–surprise perspective, and make any revisions that seem appropriate. If you think I won't understand your bullets, use parentheses to explain.
- In a sentence or two, provide a characterization of Lettvin's likely response to a proposal to explore the function of areas V1 and higher in chimps by recording from fibers while the subject chimp is exposed to point flashes of light and by using sophisticated statistical methods to interpret the results.

## Assignment, Part II

**This assignment is due at the class following Lettvin's guest appearance, not at the class in which he appears.**

Imagine that you are a graduate student, having returned to school from a failed internet startup. Alas, because you invested every penny you had in the startup, you are reduced to working part time as a science writer.

In one paragraph, cover Lettvin's talk, as if for a hypothetical third column, titled *What's New in Science*, to appear in the **Wall Street Journal's** front page *What's News* section. To guide your preparation, think about which aspects of previous exercises, if any, offer relevant guidance. Also think about what interests the general public.