

6.803/6.833 The Human Intelligence Enterprise
Prof. Patrick H. Winston
Assignment: Getting the Message to Garcia

Papers

Sur, Mriganka, Sarah L. Pallas, and Anna W. Roe. "Cross-modal plasticity in cortical development: differentiation and specification sensory cortex." *Trends in Neurosciences* 13, no. 6 (June 1990): 227-233.

Winston's Reading Time: 40 minutes

von Melchner, Laurie, Sarah L. Pallas, and Mrganka Sur. "Visual behavior mediated by retinal projections directed to the auditory pathway." *Nature* 404 (April 2000): 871-876.

Winston's Reading Time: 20 minutes

Assignment

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.

Money is tight, and you failed to get the summer UROP job you wanted. Luckily, you did land a job as an intern working in Barbara Stowe's office. On your first day at work, she sends you the following message by email, just before leaving for the airport:

President Hockfield had dinner with Pat and Lore McGovern last night. As you know, the McGovern's have put a huge pile of money into MIT.

At dinner, the McGovern's said they want to learn more about what Sur does, whose name came up in a conversation with Winston at a soirée, and whether Sur's work could be an important bridge between the brain and computer sciences. Hockfield wants us to produce a draft letter to the McGovern's describing Sur's work, including a paragraph or two on why they should spend even more of their fortune at MIT. Lore mumbled something about supporting some West Coast place closer to home.

Unsure about how to proceed, you send a note to Winston, your 6xxx instructor:

Who are Pat and Lore McGovern? Where can I find Sur? How soon do you think Hockfield will need it? How long should it be?

And he replies:

Read A Message to Garcia.

Your job, at this point, is to get the message to Garcia.