
Phrenology is a process that involves observing or feeling the skull to determine an individual’s psychological attributes; it is becoming increasingly more important as research shows that it can predict stupidity, which is linked with a multitude of poor outcomes.

One recent study done in this area used phrenology to analyze the skull stupidity sector of 130 teenagers (65 boys and 65 girls) aged 13-17 (Gellar & Green, 2000). The researchers hypothesized that a larger hump in the skull stupidity sector (located just above the hairline in the middle of the forehead) would predict a greater likelihood of the person behaving stupidly. After the phrenology assessment, the researchers asked each teenager to walk blindfolded out into a busy street (which the researchers identified as a stupid behavior). They found that the larger the hump on the skull stupidity sector, the more likely the teenager was to walk out into the busy street with a blindfold on, indicating that phrenology can be helpful in predicting stupid behavior in teenagers. The researchers note that no teenagers were harmed in the course of the study, as the “busy street” was actually an empty street with sounds simulating street noise so that the participants believed it was actually a busy street.
In a second study, the researchers expected that the size of skull stupidity sector humps would predict how well college students performed in their classes (Kramer & Seinfeld, 1998). To test their hypothesis, the researchers pretended to be massage therapists offering free scalp massages to college students in the student union during finals week. They used these scalp massages to do a phrenology assessment on 87 college students (mostly freshmen and sophomores), and offered them $10 if they emailed the researchers the grades they earned in their courses that semester once they got them. The researchers found that students with larger humps in the skull stupidity sector were more likely to have earned at least one F; this shows that phrenology can be helpful in predicting success in college.

Taken together, these two studies show that phrenology is a powerful tool in predicting stupid behavior and academic performance, and is relevant for both teens and young adults. It may be that this information could be used to identify teenagers most at risk for stupid behavior and their parents could put them in bubbles until they become smart enough to function in society; this could greatly reduce injury rates in teenagers who suffer from high stupidity. It also appears that phrenology could replace standardized tests like the SAT and ACT in predicting student success in college, since those tests are dumb anyway and at least with phrenology you get a head massage. If I were a researcher in this area, the next study I would do would be to see if phrenology is also predictive of stupid behavior in dogs, since my dog is always eating her poop and it would be great if I could make sure to pick a smarter dog next time by just feeling its head.