

# **Introduction to Psychology**

## **Experimental Design Paper Rubric**

### General Instructions

Design an experiment with one experimental group, one control group, one independent variable and one dependent variable. You will not be performing the experiment, simply describing how you would do the study if you were a researcher. Remember that you should start with a large group of participants who are similar to each other and then separate them into two groups (one of which will experience the independent variable). You **MUST** be able to randomly assign.

Write a brief paragraph describing your study and outlining how this research idea relates to your educational or professional goals (Your study idea should be intended to provide information which benefits professionals and/or consumers in your career field). State your hypothesis in this paragraph. In the rest of your paper you should: identify the experimental group, the control group, the independent variable and dependent variable. Give an example of a confounding variable that might affect your study and how you could control your experiment to minimize its influence. Also be sure to define random assignment, discuss why it is important to your study, and describe a technique you would use to randomly assign participants to groups. You should also include a discussion of ethical implications that should be considered if you were to actually perform the experiment and how to address those issues.

### Prohibited Topics:

- The effect of music on student grades or retention of information.
- Whether or not eating breakfast affects ANYTHING
- Any of the other ideas presented in the “7 Great Ideas for Psychology Experiments” article posted in the Experimental method folder in Blackboard.

### Format

Length: 1 to 1.5 pages (typed and double spaced) and **NO MORE**. If you can't explain yourself in that space, then you aren't communicating clearly. Make your idea simple!

Label it with your name and course title/section number. Title your paper “Experimental Design.”

You are required to provide an APA style citation for your textbook. No other references should be necessary (although they will be allowed if properly cited).

### Organization

The following list represents an appropriate organizational structure for the body paper.

Paragraph 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduce your topic</li><li>- Relate to your educational or career field</li><li>- Establish your hypothesis</li></ul>
Paragraph 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Describe your independent and dependent variables</li><li>- Identify your groups</li></ul>
Paragraph 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cover assignment of participants to groups</li><li>- Discuss confounding variables</li></ul>
Paragraph 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss ethical considerations</li></ul>

## Experimental Design

The following Scoring Rubric will be used to calculate your score. Please make sure you include all of the elements described below so you can receive full credit. Terms that appear in italics MUST be used in your paper and highlighted (underline, use boldface print or italics.) to identify them.

### Scoring Rubric

#### Communication

Total points (12)

Ideas were clearly expressed	/4
Appropriate grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax were used	/4
Followed format for assignment label, title and spacing	/2
Not longer than 1 – 1.5 page limit	/2

#### Scientific Reasoning

Total points (11)

Correctly identified a clear <i>Hypothesis</i> that applies to the participants in the study	/3
Correctly identified the <i>Independent Variable</i>	/2
Correctly identified a measurable <i>Dependent Variable</i>	/2
Correctly identified and described the <i>Experimental Group</i>	/2
Correctly identified and described the <i>Control Group</i>	/2

#### Critical/Creative Thinking and Problem Solving

Total points (11)

Clearly related the purpose of the paper to one's professional or educational goals.	/2
Identified a <i>Confounding Variable</i> and discussed how to control for it	/2
Defined <i>Random Assignment</i> and chose a technique for assigning participants	/2
Discussed the importance of Random Assignment	/2
Made corrections in accordance with feedback on the previous draft	/3

#### Valuing/Ethical Reasoning

Total points (4)

Identified and discussed ethical considerations of the proposed research	/2
Discussed how to minimize possible impact on the participants or environment	/2

#### Information Literacy

Total points (2)

Provides an APA citation for the Psychology textbook and any other sources used. <b>Reminder: failure to cite sources appropriately (including quotation marks around directly quoted phrases) will constitute plagiarism and will result in failing the paper.</b>	/2
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Score out of 40 possible points:	
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