

PSY 209 Winter 2012
Method Draft: Due Wednesday, February 15 at the start of class
Worth 10 points

The purpose of this assignment is to more fully solidify your study design and procedure, and to prepare you for data collection. Since this section will also be a part of your final paper, this also allows you to get some feedback and have a head start on that final paper. The Method draft is worth 10 points of your project grade, and you will turn in **one assignment** for your study and will be graded **as a group**. You might want to use Google Docs as a communication tool for your group to work on this together.

WHAT'S IN THE METHOD:

The method section of your paper describes in detail the participants, materials, design and procedure of your study. This section must be thorough enough so that others reading your study would be able to replicate it using the same procedures. The method should include all of the following information, following the accepted APA-style:

- Participant characteristics (for now, just 'fake' the data for your participants, and you can go back and change it later after you've run the study)
- Measures used, including operational definitions of all relevant variables and references for all tests that you are using in original or modified form
- Research design
- Experimental manipulations (if your study includes these)
- Procedure

HELPFUL HINTS:

- The method is usually written **AFTER** the study has taken place. Project yourselves into the future and write your method in the **past** tense as though the study has already been done. You will make changes later (e.g. to participant characteristics or any other adjustments) before you turn in your final paper.
- Use my lecture from Friday 2/10, #11 in your course reader, and Cozby pp. 291-292 as a guide for writing this section.
- If you have the APA manual, pp. 29-32, 44-46 explains and shows exactly how to write this section. Follow it as a template!

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Paper should be typed (12 pt Times font and double spaced with 1" margins on all sides).
- The method is likely to be around 2 pages. Write economically, omitting needless or repetitive information. Remember, your audience is other students at your level, so you don't need to explain standard experimental design or terms.

Remember: This is a *draft* – it does not need to be perfect, but it should be complete (addresses all of the above requirements) and readable. You will have the opportunity to edit your writing before your final paper is due, and you may need to revise to change some details of your basic

methodology after you have actually carried out the study and know what you did. Do not worry about this right now.

Also Due Wednesday, 2/15:

10 copies of your complete, fully formatted, edited, proofread, ready-to-go materials you will be using on data collection day. These should include all of your questions, in exactly the order they will be presented and all scales should be clearly included and explained (make sure the scale is repeated on each page if the questions continue onto multiple pages – use the “header” function to do this.). This should LOOK GOOD – your participants will take your survey more seriously if it is a professional-looking document, nicely formatted and free of typos and grammatical errors. This will make a big difference!! We will be conducting pilot studies in class on 2/15.

If you want me to look over your materials BEFORE Wednesday, email a copy with explicit notes on what part you want me to look over. (I CANNOT proof-read everyone’s materials, I CAN answer specific questions.)