

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

This document explains how to fulfill the Psychological Perspectives on Human Behavior or Introduction to Psychology research participation requirement and how to earn additional bonus points that will be added to your grade. Note that there may also be announcements in class that you will need to hear.

Exposure to research is designed to be an interesting educational experience that is an integral part of your introduction to Psychology. Feel free to ask researchers questions if you are interested in learning more.

AS PART OF YOUR PY 101 OR PY 102 COURSE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO EARN A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS. The four required credits will count for 5% of your grade in the course!

DEPENDING ON YOUR INSTRUCTOR, YOU MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO EARN EXTRA RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS. Think of these additional (bonus) participation credits as “extra credit” points that can be earned in addition to the four credits that are required. These extra credit points are added to your test scores and will only affect your grade positively. Your instructor will determine the limit on extra credit points that can be added to your test scores.

IF YOU ARE NOT YET 18 YEARS OF AGE, YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDIES WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN!!! This is a matter of U.S. Government laws and regulations. If you are under 18, please contact the Main Psychology Department Office (404 Scully) at the beginning of the semester for Parental Consent Forms and further instructions, as the forms will take time to complete.

YOU CAN EARN YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS IN TWO WAYS:

- You can participate in psychological research studies. If you choose to do this, you get **one credit for each half hour that you participate in a study** (i.e., 30 minutes = 1 credit).
- You can write a research paper about a psychology study published in a journal (2 pages = 1 credit).

THE RESEARCH STUDY OPTION: HOW TO SIGN UP

- You can sign up for research studies by using the Southeast General Research Website at <https://semo.sona-systems.com>. See the attached handout for information about how to use the website.
- You will receive an email containing your login ID and password to login to the website. If you have not received this email by the Friday of the first week of class, contact the Subject Pool Manager (subjectpool@semo.edu) or stop by 405c Scully during Office Hours.

WHEN YOU CANNOT KEEP YOUR RESEARCH STUDY APPOINTMENT: You must e-mail the researcher or visit <https://semo.sona-systems.com> to cancel **at least 24 hours in advance**. **If you fail to cancel within 24 hours in advance, you will lose your opportunity to earn bonus credits, as described below!**

RECEIVING A BONUS CREDIT FOR KEEPING APPOINTMENTS: For every 3 consecutive credits you show up, you receive one bonus credit. If you follow designated procedures for cancellation (particularly procedures for a timely cancellation), you are still eligible for the bonus credit. However, if you do not show up (e.g., “no shows”) or cancel with less than 24 hours before the appointment time, the counter for the bonus credit is reset to zero and you must start accruing the 3 credits necessary to obtain the bonus credit. You keep all credits you have legitimately earned up to that point in time.

Example 1: A student participates in a study in which he/she earns 1 credit, a second study in which he/she earns 1 credit, signs up for a third study in which he/she would earn 1 credit, **but**

cancels that third study more than 24 hours in advance of the appointment time. The student then participates in a fourth study in which he/she earns 1 credit. This student would earn the bonus credit, because he/she earned 3 credits and showed up to all appointments and/or cancelled any appointments more than 24 hours before the appointment time.

Example 2: A student participates in a study in which he/she earns 2 credits, and then **fails to show** at the designated time for a second study. Because the student did not show up for the second study, he/she will not earn a bonus credit and thus will have to participate in research to earn 2 more credits.

BE ON TIME FOR THE APPOINTMENT! To maintain study validity, the researcher cannot allow people to come in late in most studies.

BRING AN ID AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM. EVEN IF YOU ARE OVER 18, YOU MUST BRING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE or some other ID that has both a **PHOTO AND YOUR BIRTHDATE** to every research study (Southeast ID won't do). If you are not yet 18 years OLD, you must *ALSO* bring your copy of your *PARENTAL INFORMED CONSENT FORM*.

WHEN YOU ARE AT THE RESEARCH STUDY:

1. You will be given a **consent form** to read and sign. **KEEP YOUR COPY OF THE CONSENT FORM** as proof of your participation should complications arise about your research participation credits. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask the researcher about them.
2. You have the **RIGHT TO REFUSE** to participate or to stop participating at any time during the research study. There are no penalties for exercising these rights.
3. **COURTEOUS, RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR:** The research study sessions are **PART OF YOUR PY 101 or PY 102 COURSE!** YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING A RESEARCH STUDY IN THE SAME WAY YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING AN EXAM.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS:

1. **KEEP ALL INFORMATION FROM ALL OF THE STUDIES YOU PARTICIPATE IN** until you get your final course grade.
2. If two weeks have passed from the date of your participation and your research participation credit total is still not correct, contact the Subject Pool Manager (subjectpool@semo.edu or 405c Scully).
3. **RESOLVE ANY RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDIT PROBLEMS** by 5:00 p.m. **ON THE THURSDAY OF THE LAST WEEK OF CLASSES.** Even if everything has seemed correct, check your credits during the beginning of the last week of classes! Please report problems to the Subject Pool Manager.

DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no credits from studies will be accepted. **The deadline is 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday of the last week of classes (December 9th, 2015).** However, be alert for changes in the deadline that might need to be made for this particular semester. **NOTICE: THIS IS THE DEADLINE FOR ACTUALLY BEING IN THE STUDY!** YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE SIGNED UP EARLIER! **ALSO REMEMBER:** As noted above, research studies **CAN START TO WIND DOWN EVEN BEFORE THE DEADLINE**, so if you wait too long before starting to get your credits, you may not be able to get them.

THE RESEARCH PAPER OPTION:

This alternative for earning research participation credits involves reading and writing about a published psychological study. The idea is to do some reading about psychological research beyond what is in your textbook. You may combine credits from research papers and study participation for the required four (4) credits and for any bonus credits.

To participate in the Research Paper Option:

1. Choose a Psychology-related JOURNAL ARTICLE. Journals published by the American Psychological Association are very good. A few examples of relevant journals are *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Child Development*. Articles on psychological topics from *Scientific American* or *American Scientist* are also excellent; they use little technical language. Popular magazines such as *Psychology Today* are NOT ACCEPTABLE for research papers. The Library Reference Desk people are very helpful and can assist you in locating journals. **The article that you select should be at least 2 pages long in the journal.**
2. Read the article and write a 1-2 page account of what you got from it, demonstrating that you have understood the article. (One page = about 260 words, regardless of the font size or margins) The report should be well written – organized, grammatically correct – but does not have to be a completely polished term paper. **Two pages (520 words) is the maximum you are allowed to write about one article.**
3. The report should be typed or printed from a word processor (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). If you cannot type it, see the Subject Pool Manager for permission to turn it in handwritten.
4. Any report that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from a research article will automatically be rated **not acceptable**. (That is plagiarism, and we do check for it.)
5. On an additional title page, you **must** include this information:
 - o Your name
 - o Your General Psychology instructor and class time
 - o Your semo.edu email address
 - o The title of the article you read
 - o The author of the article you read
 - o The name of the journal
 - o The date and/or volume number of the journal (e.g., year and month)
 - o The page numbers of the article in the magazine or journal
 - o If on-line, the link to the article
6. Email your paper and a copy of the journal article you read to subjectpool@semo.edu. If you cannot email the paper and journal article, you can turn in printed copies to Nicolas Wilkins (Scully #405c).
7. Number of Credits Awarded: If the report is acceptable, you will receive .5 credits for each page (260 words) you write, but not more than 1 credit for any particular article you read.
8. DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no papers will be accepted for research participation credits. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on the Monday two weeks before finals week (November 30th, 2015)**. Note that this is earlier than the deadline for participating in research studies, to allow time for your papers to be graded. Also note that if you wanted to get your credits by participating in research and waited so long that many of the studies had finished up, you could also be past the deadline for the research paper option.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS: If you should ever have any problems connected with research participation (whether it's directly connected with your participation credits or not), we want to hear from you. Contact the subject pool manager in Scully room 405c. All complaints are held in strict confidence.