

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Methods Section

PSY 3500

## Overview

The purpose of this writing assignment is to provide a clear and concise description of the methods that are proposed for the research project. These should line up with the literature review. That is, together, the literature review and methods section should be a seamless story by the end of the semester. You can earn up to 50 points on this assignment. The expectations are detailed in the rubric at the end of this document. The section should be at least 1 page, but no more than 1.25 pages of text.

## Instructions

1. Produce a title page in APA style.
2. On the next page, begin the methods section. The methods should include:
  - a. A description of the sample that will be collected, including the way that participants will be recruited, the survey instruments that they will be given, and other data collection procedures that will be used.
  - b. The research question and scientific hypotheses.
  - c. A description of the design (e.g., factorial design experiment, observational, etc.) that includes enough information for someone to replicate what you did.
  - d. A short paragraph about potential limitations to the study and solutions to these potential problems.
3. Submit the assignment 1) through the Canvas site or 2) on paper by the beginning of class on the date specified.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

*Each point level represents the minimum level of quality needed to obtain credit within each category.*

## Grading

\_\_\_\_\_ /50

### Sample

- 10 points: *The sample's characteristics are clearly explained and the recruitment process appears sound. The survey or other data collection tools are clearly explained.*
- 7 points: *One of the areas are not clearly explained/do not appear sound.*
- 4 points: *Two of the areas are not clearly explained/do not appear sound.*
- 0 points: *No attempt made to describe sample.*

### Research Question and Hypotheses

- 10 points: *Hypotheses are very clearly stated and specific with regard to the expected outcomes of the study. Justification for the choice of hypothesis is exceptionally clear.*
- 5 points: *Hypotheses are stated, but are not specific with regard to the expected outcomes of the study.*
- 0 points: *No attempt made to state hypotheses.*

### Design

- 10 points: *Design is clearly explained. Enough information is given regarding the design that another researcher could replicate the study.*
- 7 points: *Design is explained. Some information is given regarding the design but another researcher would struggle to replicate the study.*
- 3 points: *Design is explained, but it is not a real design, would not produce results, or otherwise would fail to answer the research questions.*
- 0 points: *No attempt made to explain the design.*

### Potential Limitations

- 10 points: *At least one potential limitation to the study is clearly discussed. At least one solution to each limitation is clearly explained.*
- 5 points: *At least one potential limitation to the study is clearly discussed. No solutions given.*
- 0 points: *No attempt made to state limitations.*

### Overall Writing

- 10 points: *Writing style is professional and free of grammatical, syntactical, and typographical errors. Writing is exceptionally cohesive and clear. Completely devoid of personal opinions. APA style is flawless.*
- 8 points: *Writing style is professional and free of grammatical, syntactical, and typographical errors. Writing is cohesive and clear. Completely devoid of personal opinions. May contain one APA flaw.*
- 6 points: *Writing style is professional and may contain minimal grammatical, syntactical, or typographical errors. Writing is moderately cohesive and clear. Completely devoid of personal opinions. May contain up to two APA flaws.*

- 4 points: *Writing style lacks professionalism and contains some grammatical, syntactical, or typographical errors. Writing has some problems with clarity and cohesiveness. May contain up to three APA flaws.*
- 2 points: *Writing has significant problems with professionalism and grammatical, syntactical, or typographical errors. Writing has significant problems with clarity and cohesiveness. May contain four or more APA flaws.*
- 0 points: *Is unreadable.*