

# Research Grant Instructions

## Collaborative Project

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**Project Objective:** Demonstrate understanding of the scientific method by developing and evaluating a proposal for a research study

### Project Instructions

This is a 2 part project to be completed over the course of two weeks. You are a researcher and have been assembled as a team to apply for a research grant at the Institute for Psychological Research (IPR), which is offering several large grants to study a variety of psychological topics. As a researcher you know that good research originates from a question so to aid your Team in developing their proposal, IPH is requiring each Team read each of these articles and focus their research question on one of them. Here are the articles:

***Pathological Internet Use May Lead Teens to Depression***

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/08/100802165402.htm>

***Today's Superheroes Send Wrong Messages to Boys, Researchers Say***

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/08/100815162118.htm>

***Brain Network Links Cognition, Motivation***

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/08/100819131001.htm>

**Week 2:** To obtain funding for this grant your Team is required to develop a research study and submit a completed Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) by 11:59pm Sunday this week. To do this your Team must accomplish the following:

1. Each student should read the 3 provided articles
2. As a team, select a topic of interest for the research study
3. Develop a hypothesis (as a Team)
4. Formulate a clear and succinct hypothesis (as a Team)
5. Design a research study using the provided template (as a Team)

To aid you in this process IPH has provided you with a template to use for completing your RFP (posted in the Weekly Schedule). Failure to submit a completed RFP to IPH by the end of Week 2 may result in lost funding and will most certainly have a negative impact on your grade!

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**Timeline:** Since this proposal must be completed by the end of Week 2, students should begin coordinating this project immediately by developing a timeline that outlines responsibilities and due dates. This timeline **MUST** be completed ASAP to ensure that everybody is aware of their responsibilities at the start of this project. The timeline should be agreed upon by all active students. Any student who does not participate in development of the timeline must still adhere to the established timeline. At the end of these instructions is a suggested timeline that students can follow, or groups can develop their own timeline. Regardless this timeline must be coordinated in the Group Discussion area and clearly visible to the group.

**Week 3:** The Professor will post other Team's proposals to be evaluated. Each student will review another Team's RFP to ensure that the proposed study meets the rigorous scrutiny of the scientific method, answering questions such as:

*Is the hypothesis clearly stated? Is it supported by previous research?*  
*Is the RFP a proposed experiment or correlational study? How do you know?*  
*Are the variables being studied clearly identified? If not, what is unclear?*  
*Is the research design going to be able to measure these variables? Do you have any suggestions?*  
*Did the Research Team overlook any extraneous variables?*  
*Should these RFP be approved for funding? Why or why not?*

As always these are not "yes and no" questions. You will be scored on your demonstrated ability to critically evaluate the proposed research study. Hence each student should demonstrate his/her understanding of the research method based on what they've learned in Module A Lesson 2. Each student must post their complete review of another team's RFP no later than 11:59pm **Wednesday** this week.

Each group will then have the opportunity to respond to any posted comments about their RFP. Here are some examples:

- a) If a review of your proposal found some methodological flaws (e.g. did not clearly identify the subject demographics), then your group can respond by providing the missing information.
- b) If your group's proposal was for an experiment but another student reviewed your proposal and couldn't find the experimental and control groups, then you can respond and provide that information.
- c) If your group didn't have a clearly stated hypothesis, then your group should revise your hypothesis.

Each group has until 11:59pm **Friday** to respond to these comments and I encourage students to go back to these studies and evaluate the changes to see if they are sufficient, or not. In essence this is an on-going discussion up until 11:59pm **Sunday**. Remember that you want to demonstrate engagement in this process throughout the week.

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### Student Scores

Students will be scored using the grading rubric below. Students that are not actively contributing to the project will be penalized accordingly. Keep in mind that this is a group project therefore you are expected to work together with all of your group members to develop this proposal and therefore you will be scored on your collaborative abilities in addition to your individual contributions during both weeks of the project.

### Grading Rubric

This project is worth up to 50 points and each student will be evaluated using the questions below.

- Was the student actively involved in developing ideas for the research hypothesis? (Week 2)
- Did the student actively contribute to the proposed content of the research design? (Week 2)
- Did the student effectively collaborate with others in the group? (Week 2)
- Did the student provide constructive feedback on another team's research study? (Week 3)
- Was the student actively engaged and positively contributing during the revisions? (Week 3)

Each of these questions will be scored using a 10-point Likert scale:

0.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10  
Not at all                                      Minimal                                      Average                                      Good                                      Very Good

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### Project Timeline

**Project Start Date:**

**Project End Date:**

### Group Members Names

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### Week 2 Goals: Develop a Research Proposal

1. **Monday** - Students should reach each of the articles and post some ideas as to what the research proposal should be about.
2. **Tuesday** – Each student should develop a hypothesis for the proposal and their proposed research methodology (e.g. surveys, experiment, naturalistic observations).
3. **Wednesday** – The group should agree upon a hypothesis and continue to develop the research methodology.
4. **Friday** – A draft of the research proposal should be posted in the **Group Locker** or **Discussion** forum.
5. **Saturday** – Each student should post their comments on the draft proposal
6. **Sunday** - The completed proposal must be submitted in the **Dropbox** no later than 11:59pm

### **Revised!** Week 3 Goals: Review another group's Research Proposal

1. **Monday** – The Professor will post other group's studies to be evaluated.
2. **Wednesday** – Post a review of another RFP
3. **Friday** – Members of each team should respond to the feedback, making any necessary changes
4. **Sunday** – Final comments should be made by 11:59pm Sunday.