

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT for RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY (Spring 2009)

This document explains how to fulfill the research requirement in your Research Methods in Psychology course, and how to earn additional bonus points that will be added to your grade. Note that there may 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 education in Psychology. Feel free to ask researchers questions if you are interested in learning more.

AS PART OF YOUR RESEARCH METHODS COURSE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO EARN A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS. The six required points will count for 10% of your grade in the course!

YOU CAN ALSO EARN EXTRA RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS. Think of these additional (bonus) points as “extra credit” points that can be earned in addition to the six points that are required. These additional points are added to your test scores and will only affect your grade positively. Your instructor will determine the limit on extra 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 (144 Kent Hall) 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 POINTS IN TWO WAYS:

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

THE RESEARCH STUDY OPTION: HOW TO SIGN UP

- You can sign up for research studies by using the Kent State Psychology Research Website at <http://kentstate.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 (subjpool@kent.edu) or stop by Kent 142 during Subject Pool Office Hours.

WHEN YOU CANNOT KEEP YOUR RESEARCH STUDY APPOINTMENT: You must e-mail the researcher or visit the General Psychology Research website (<http://kentstate.sona-systems.com>) to cancel **at least 24 hours in advance**.

PENALTY POINT FOR MISSING APPOINTMENT: If you fail to keep an appointment or to cancel 24 hours in advance, a **penalty point will be assessed**. One credit will be subtracted from the number of credits you have accumulated. **This will increase the number of points that you have to earn to satisfy the class requirement.**

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 (KSU 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 points. 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 PSYCHOLOGY COURSE!** YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING A RESEARCH STUDY IN THE SAME WAY YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING AN EXAM IN YOUR RESEARCH METHODS COURSE. Any behavior that disrupts a research study even slightly is a Conduct Court offense!

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS

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 point total is still not correct, contact the Subject Pool Manager (subjpool@kent.edu or 142 Kent Hall) to fill out a Point Verification form and get further instructions (You should have your consent form(s) from the study or studies with you!!).
3. **RESOLVE ANY POINT PROBLEMS** by 5:00 p.m. **ON THE THURSDAY OF THE LAST WEEK OF CLASSES (May 7, 2009)**. Even if everything has seemed correct, check your points during the beginning of the last week of classes! Report problems to the Subject Pool Manager.

DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no points from studies will be accepted. **The deadline is 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday of the last week of classes (May 6, 2009)**. 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 points, you may not be able to get them.

THE RESEARCH PAPER OPTION:

This alternative for earning research participation points 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 points from research papers and study participation for the required six (6) points and for the bonus points.

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 Research Methods instructor and class time
 - o Your kent.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 in of the article in the magazine or journal
 - o If on-line, the link to the article
6. Email your paper to subjpool@kent.edu. If you cannot email the paper, you can turn in a print copy of your paper to the Subject Pool Office, 142 Kent Hall (office hours will be posted on the door—you may also slide your paper under the door if no one is in the office or you may turn it in to Dr. Rawson, 230 Kent Hall Addition).
7. Number of Points Awarded: If the report is acceptable, you will receive 1 point for each page (260 words) you write, but not more than 2 points for any particular article you read.
8. **DEADLINE:** There is a deadline, after which no papers will be accepted for research participation points. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on the Monday two weeks before finals week (April 27, 2009)**. 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 points 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.
 - o **IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS:** If you should ever have any problems connected with research participation (whether it's directly connected with your points or not), we want to hear from you. Go to the Subject Pool Office and fill out a Point Verification or Research Participation (complaint) form. Return it to the Subject Pool Office during office hours or to Dr. Rawson. All complaints are held in strict confidence.
 - o **LAST REMINDERS:**
 1. **DEADLINE for emailing/turning in research papers is Monday, April 27, by 5:00 pm.**
 2. **DEADLINE for participating in research studies is Wednesday, May 6, by 7:00 pm.**
 3. **DEADLINE for resolving problems with your research participation points is Thursday, May 7, by 5:00 pm.** Remember to check your research participation points and get problems resolved by the deadline!
 4. Also remember that relevant announcements may be made in class; if you don't come to class you could miss them.
 5. **The Subject Pool Office is in 142 Kent Hall**, and the Subject Pool Manager's office hours will be posted there.