

## Introductory Psychology Applied Psychology Assignment Guidelines

**Purpose:** This assignment is an opportunity for you to see how psychology can be applied outside the classroom.

**Requirements:** You will need to earn **four** applied assignment credits (AACs) to receive a grade for Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1001). You may earn AACs in the three different ways outlined below. You have the option of earning AACs by any one of these methods or you may earn your 4 AACs by combining any of the options.

**If you fail to complete the applied assignment by the due date your instructor sets, you will lose up to 10% of your grade.** Each AAC is worth 2.5% of your grade.

### Ways to Earn AACs (each option is worth 1 AAC):

- A.** Spend **one hour as a research participant** in a psychology study. See below for the specific procedure for completing this option.
- B.** Attend a lecture relating to psychology given by a psychologist in the community or on campus (**the lecture must be approved in advance by the instructor**) and **write a paper about the lecture**. In the paper you are to summarize the lecture and show how what you learned during the lecture is related to what you've learned in Introduction to Psychology. The paper must be 2-3 TYPEWRITTEN/ DOUBLE SPACED PAGES with 1-inch margins.
- C. Write a paper summarizing an article** from Current Directions in Psychological Science. To complete this option you will go to the library and select any article published between January and June of 2009 in the journal Current Directions in Psychological Science (papers on articles from other journals or publication dates will not fulfill this assignment). You will then write a paper that must be 2-3 typewritten/ double spaced pages with 1-inch margins. To get credit for this assignment you must staple a photocopy of the first page of the article to your paper.

### Guidelines for Research Participation (Option A)

The research studies require you to be 18 or older to take advantage of this option. Faculty and undergraduate students in the Department of Psychology conduct various research projects in many different areas of psychology. They need volunteers to participate as research participants--this is where you come in. If you choose to earn AACs by participating in a research study, you are agreeing to volunteer at least one hour of your time. To ensure that you are treated in a way that is consistent with ethical standards, you can only participate in those studies that have been approved by MSCD's Human Subjects Committee.

**Rights:** You have the right to be treated with respect by the researcher. Please address any complaints to the research pool coordinator, Dr. Lesley Hathorn ([mscd-psychresearch@mscd.edu](mailto:mscd-psychresearch@mscd.edu)). You have the right to a consent form before and a debriefing after the study. You have the right to leave a study at any time without credit or penalty. You have the right to credit for completed participation.

How do you find an appropriate project?

To participate in an experiment go to: <http://mscd.sona-systems.com>

- If you are logging in from home, set your browser to accept cookies and allow pop-ups for this site.
- Your User ID is your mscd email name. For example, if your email address is [sjones@mscd.edu](mailto:sjones@mscd.edu) then your User ID is sjones. That is, your username is the part of your email address that comes before @mscd. If you use another email address, you must still sign in with the MSCD user ID. You may not change your User ID, but you can provide an alternate email address.
- Your password is Metro2009 (no spaces). The first time you log in, please go to Profile and change your password. You will then be able to see all the research studies and select one.
- You may sign up online for the study by clicking on a study. You will then be able to see all open time slots. All you need to do is click Sign Up. Please note the date, time and place.
- You may log in at any time to check which studies you have signed up for and which have been completed.

- Some studies may have certain restrictions, such as native English speakers only, so please read the participant requirements line carefully. Remember, studies require you to be 18 or older. Permission from a parent is not equivalent to being 18 or older.
- If you cannot log in by week 3:
  - Check with your instructor that he/she has sent in the class list. If he/she has sent in the list then
  - please contact Dr. Hathorn at [mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu](mailto:mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu). Please send an email with your Metro email address, your full name, the name of your instructor and the section of your class, e.g., PSY 1001-022. **Do not call.** I need the information written down. I am also available during office hours. Please check with the main office when these are.
- Since research studies are often difficult to plan and rooms are hard to schedule, if you sign-up for a time to participate in a study you must show up or email the researcher to **cancel at least 24 hours before** the appointment (the researcher's email will be on the website where you signed up). if you missed an appointment and did not email the researcher to cancel you are considered a no-show and are subject to the following penalties:
  - For each time you do not show up for a study, you will get a penalty. If you **no-show once** during the semester, then you **will get one penalty and will then be required to get 5 AACs.**
  - **If you are a no-show twice, you will get another penalty and will be deleted from the subject pool. You will then be required to earn 6 AACs in total. You will have get all remaining AACs PLUS penalties by writing papers.**
  - Be sure to note the time, date and place of your appointment. **If you are late for a study** – even by a few minutes – you may not be allowed to participate and may be **counted as a no-show. Do not be late. If you are running late, make sure you have the researcher's telephone number so that you can contact him/her.**
  - Some projects will require only an hour of your time and therefore participation will be worth 1 AAC. Other projects will require two hours of your time and therefore participation will be worth 2 AACs. When you sign up be sure to note how much time you'll need to schedule for participation. Remember you need to earn **four** AACs to fulfill the applied assignment. If you volunteer for a project that requires only 1 hour of your time, you'll need to either volunteer for three additional study hours or complete three of the other options to fulfill the Applied Assignment.
  - You may participate in each project only once. You will not receive credit if you participate in a project more than one time. You must be 18 or older to participate in the studies.
- After participating in a study, the researcher will give you a *Debriefing Form*. *The researcher will then credit you with your AAC. If the researcher has not given you credit with 48 hours of participating,, please email the researcher. If you do not receive credit within 24 hours of contacting the researcher, please email Dr. Hathorn ([mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu](mailto:mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu)).*
- If a researcher fails to show up for a scheduled appointment (within 10 minutes), you will still receive credit for participation provided you contact the Research Pool Coordinator (Dr. Hathorn, [mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu](mailto:mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu)) or the Psychology Department administrative assistants and this information is verified at the time of the scheduled session. **Please wait 10 minutes before you leave.** A researcher may be conducting a study that is running late.
- Studies will be posted at various times during the semester, so if you don't find one that is being conducted at a convenient time, check back every couple of days. Your instructor will not be able to tell you when new studies are going to be posted, you just have to keep checking. You may also email the researcher.
- The Psychology Department is NOT responsible for offering enough studies for every student to participate. If you have not fulfilled your four hours of participation by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, you are strongly encouraged to select another option. **Please note that there are very few studies available in the last two weeks of the semester.** You are encouraged to sign up early in the semester.

Dr. Hathorn (PL 220, [mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu](mailto:mcsd-psychresearch@mcsd.edu)) is the Research Pool Coordinator for the fall who oversees all research studies offered for credit to the Introductory Psychology students.