Effective explaining

PSYC 11: Laboratory in Psychological Science
April 8, 2024

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Empathy: the core of (most) effective explanations

- Think about your intended audience

- What do they already know and what do they need to know?

- What sort of language will they respond to best?

- What tools (resources, data, etc.) does your audience need to carry out your instructions?

- How much time/space will you have to explain?

Necessary and sufficient details

- Our (stated) goal in scientific research is often to enable others to **exactly** reproduce our study

- But what does "exact" really mean?

- Some aspects of your study will be critical to reproducing your procedure— that's what you need to communicate

- Other details are unimportant— you can leave those details out

Drawing lab

- Goal: understand and explore how to effectively communicate written procedural instructions (i.e., methods sections)

Drawing lab

- Today: each group draws a picture and writes out instructions for reproducing it

- Wednesday: follow each others' instructions and evaluate performance

- Friday: analyze data

Drawing lab