PSYC 1115 – **CLASS JOURNAL #2**

***Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science***

***\* SEPT 22****: Review this class journal AFTER the class*

* *Use this class journal as a study tool to prepare for the course AND review before exams.*

**PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

* Which cognitive bias would you get rid off in priority if you had a magic wand, and why?
* Find (at least) 3 concrete examples of cognitive biases in yourself and people you know well

**TEAM REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

***Team exercise – PART 1***

Following are 3 research conclusions taken from the text. For each one:

* Identify the **independent variable** and its **levels** (i.e different groups in the experiments)
* Identify the **dependent variable**. Remember, it must be a quantifiable measure
* Identify one variable that would be important to **control**, and say **why** you chose it

1. **“During a laboratory game, those given a nasal squirt of oxytocin rather than a placebo were more likely to trust strangers with their money.”**
2. **“Preschool children, by a 6-to-1 margin, thought French fries tasted better when served in a McDonald’s bag rather than a plain white bag.”**
3. **“Give people a red pen (associated with error marking) rather than a black pen and, when correcting essays, they will spot more errors and give lower grades.”**

***Team exercise – PART 2***

### Read the following scenario:

*Dr. Williams conducted a study to see if people who watch many basketball games are better basketball players than people who do not watch many basketball games. Dr. Williams assembled a random sample of 1,000 people. He judged each person on several different aspects of basketball ability, and gave each person a total score ranging from 1 (bad) to 100 (good) to assess their basketball ability. After the assessment of ability, each person responded to a questionnaire that asked, “How many basketball games do you watch per week?” Dr. Williams found a positive correlation (r = .6) between watching basketball games and basketball ability. He concluded that watching more basketball makes you a better player.*

**Question 1:** Do the data support Dr. Williams’ conclusions? Why or why not?

**Question 2:** What is a possible alternative explanation for Dr. Williams’ findings?

**Question 3:** If you wanted to demonstrate *a cause and effect relationship* between *watching basketball* and *playing ability*, what type of research design could you employ?

**3a – Type of research design:**

**3b** - State your **hypothesis:**

**3c -** Identify your **design:**

* *IV:* 
  + *Condition 1:*
  + *Condition 2:*
* *DV:*
* *One or two variable(s) important to control for:*
* *Why should it be especially controlled for in your design?*

**3d -** Predict your **results:**

*Operational hypothesis:*

**CHAPTER SYNTHESIS:**

* Regardless of the upcoming miderm, write down ONE neuromyth and ONE cognitive bias you would like to remember from this chapter
* Regardless of the upcoming miderm, write down ONE thing you would like to remember from the second part of the chapter (scientific method)

*You can also write down any QUESTIONS or REFECTIONS you have about the chapter*