The second research session I participated in was on gambling habits. The main part of this study was playing blackjack. When I entered the room there were two researchers. The first had me complete a quick survey on their laptop. After I was done with that, they had me sit down in front of the other researcher. He then explained the rules of blackjack to me, though I already knew them, and also showed me that the rules were on the board behind him. He told me that I was starting with $5000 worth of chips and simply had to play until I was out of money or decided to stop. I got lucky early on and was up several thousand but decided to keep playing. I then ended up calling it once I was down to around $1500 left.

I would say the researcher’s goal was rather clear. They were trying to learn anything they could about the act of gambling and its effect on people. I remember that one of the questions on the survey was about how often you participate in gambling. Little fact about me, I have never and will never gamble. I am alarmingly unlucky and so avoid any form of gambling as a rule. As for what specifically they were looking at I would guess that a link between how often someone gambles and when they decided to quit.

I found this study very interesting because, as mentioned before, I never gamble. When I say I never gamble I mean never. I don’t even play rock, paper, scissors with my brother anymore because I’m so unlucky that I lose every single time. Which is why I find it so fascinating that despite saying “I’m up I should stop,” and knowing in my head that I should quit, I kept going. I not only kept going, I kept going until I was down way more than I was ever up. I just kept losing and saying “Oh I gotta try to make it back.” It was kind of horrifying in a way.