



HENDRIX

COLLEGE

Personality Notes

PSYC 370

Start

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1.1 Defining Personality

- *Personality*: consistent behavior patterns and intrapersonal processes originating within the individual.

Chapter Outline:

- The Hypothesis-Testing Approach
- The Case Study Method
- Statistical Analysis of Data
- Personality assessment
- Summary

2.1 The Hypothesis-Testing Approach

- **Theory:** General statement about the relationship between constructs or events.
 - Differ in the range of events or phenomena they cover.
- Characteristics of a good theory:
 - Parsimonious –Explains the phenomenon in simple terms.
 - Useful –Generates testable hypotheses.
- **Hypothesis:** Formal prediction about the relationship between or more variables that is logically derived from a theory.
- A theory is not accepted if empirical investigations consistently fail to confirm predictions.

2.1.1 Types of Experimental Variables

- **Independent variable:** Manipulated by the experimenter.
- **Dependent variable:** Measured by the experimenter.
- **Non-Manipulated independent variable:**
 - Exists without the researcher's intervention.
 - Investigator does not randomly assign participants to a conditions
 - Research cannot assume the participants in the two groups are identical.
 - Difficult to find cause-and-effect relationships.
- **Manipulated independent variable:**



- Begins with numerous participants.
- Randomly assigns participants to experimental groups.
- Researcher can assume that all the differences will be evened out.
- Random assignment increases confidence in causation relationships.

Example

Theory: Aggression is learned through observation.

Create a hypothesis based on the theory above.