Protocol

Supplies/Software needed

- Ice, bucket, room temperature water, thermometer, towel
- Printed version of Composite survey (I've already designed the composite survey that contains the appropriate content from the surveys we are testing)
- Stroop test (MATLAB)

Procedure

1. The researcher will give the subject the Learning Consent Form and explain that this project is studying "how different personality traits interact with each other." The researcher will answer any questions the subject has and confirm that the subject has signed the consent form.
2. Subjects will be assigned to the 3 conditions via the subject assignment sheet. Write the subject code in the next available slot to see which condition the subject has been assigned to
3. Subjects will be assigned to read a short passage with subject matter that is either neutral, negative or inspiring. The neutral stimuli will consist of Fishing policy, the negative stimuli will consist of an article on the low probabilities of surviving a being stranded in the ocean, and the inspiring stimuli will consist of a newspaper clipping about a survival story of a man stranded in the ocean.
    a. Subjects in the negative or inspiring group will be told: "Now we're going to have you read an article and answer a few questions relating to perseverance. Please read through the passage and alert the researcher when you are done."
    b. Subjects in the neutral group will be told: "Now we're going to have you do a standard reading comprehension test that helps us control for differences between subjects. Please read through this short passage and alert the researcher when done to move on to the comprehension questions."
4. When the subject begins to read the passage, the experimenter will place two buckets of water and two buckets of ice into the basin.
5. Subject will be told: "Now what we're going to do what is called a cold pressor task. It's a standard test of pain tolerance which just involves putting your non dominant hand and forearm in ice water for as long as you can." If necessary, tell subject that "It is a test that tends to be associated with other measures of cognitive control."
6. Subjects will place their non-dominant hand and forearm in cold water so that their wrist rests on the bottom of the basin. They will be told to remove their hand and forearm when it becomes too uncomfortable to continue. After 4 minutes, subjects will be told to remove their hand and forearm from the water, whether they experience discomfort or not.
    a. Once they are ready, subject will be told to immerse their hand and forearm into water. The researcher will begin timing on a stopwatch as soon as the subject's forearm is under the ice water.
    b. The experimenter will record the temperature of the ice water when the subject places his/her hand in the water and again when s/he remove it.

7. Subjects will complete a composite survey that includes Ducksworth et al's Grit-S survey and the Big Five Inventory (BFI; John and Srivastava, 1999).
   a. Subject will be told: Next, we have a personality survey that asks you some questions about yourself.
8. Subjects will engage in a two minute long Stroop test on the computer. (See MATLAB Stroop Program)
   a. Subject will be told: The last task that we're going to do is an attention task. You will see words in different color fonts. You must use the game pad to describe the color of the font.
9. The researcher will debrief the subject using the "funnel debrief" technique
   a. Researcher will say "now I just want to ask you some questions" and record their responses in the funnel debrief document.
10. The researcher will tell the subject that we will email them about the purpose of the experiment at the end of the study.
11. Subject will be paid $10 or ½ T point.