**Problem:** coming up with ideas for experiments can be quite challenging, especially when you’re not familiar with the field. Reading papers is one of the most - if not the most - important tool helping us generate new interesting research questions.

**Goal:** By the end of this exercise, you should have familiarized yourself with a set of 3 papers that will represent the foundation for your research projects.

STEP 1 – individually (60 min)

Read the paper that was assigned to your group in depth and answer the following set of questions:

1. What was the rationale for conducting the study?
2. What is/are the research question/s and hypotheses?
3. What was the design?
   1. To answer this, write down independent and dependent variables. Also write down the factorial levels for each independent variable.
4. How was the dependent variable measured?
5. What were the most important results?
6. How do the results integrate into existing literature?
7. What are open questions?

STEP 2 – in your group (20 min)

Compare your answers and discuss any discrepancies.

STEP 3 – represent your paper as the “expert” in new groups (40 min)

We will form new groups; each group will have a representative for each paper. As the representative you will tell the others about your paper, going over the questions one by one. The others should ask further questions if they come up and you should try to answer them to the best of your knowledge.

STEP 4 – discuss open questions in plenum (10 min)

After each group has gone through all the papers, we will discuss any open questions in plenum.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| What was the rationale for conducting the study? |  |
| What is/are the research question/s and hypotheses? |  |
| What was the design?  (independent & dependent variables) |  |
| How was the dependent variable measured? |  |
| What were the most important results? |  |
| How do the results integrate into existing literature? |  |
| What are open questions? |  |