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Hello. My name is Dr. Jane Sell and I am a member of a research team of social scientists who is conducting this study. We’d like to thank you for coming today to participate in our research. This study you are in examines how group members interact and develop solutions to problems.

During the past several years, there have been many studies about how different people work together in groups. For many types of problems the results have shown that individuals working together perform more effectively than individuals working alone. This is true for ALL of the tasks that we will be asking you to work on.

. We are trying to find out what makes some groups more successful then other groups at tasks like these. As we mentioned, the task requires a great deal of group interaction.

*The tasks that you will be working on today involves using MANY, MANY different skills and abilities. We know that, generally speaking, some group members will have some special skills and abilities and others will have other skills and abilities. So, while everybody will have some ability to contribute to the task, it would be extremely unusual or even impossible for a single individual to be good at every single aspect necessary for these tasks.*

You will find the tasks and the questions associated with the task in a yellow envelope on your table. When the researcher tells you to do so, you will first work on the task individually and come to some tentative opinions. We give you about 15 minutes, to do this. When your 15 minutes are up, the researcher will tell you and you will work with your GROUP on finding solutions. We will give you 20 minutes to work together and the group is to correctly answer as many of the problems as possible. It is probably better to work carefully, rather than quickly.

After the 20 MINUTE time allotted for the group task has passed, we will give you a short questionnaire to fill out*. This questionnaire will ask you to assess the kinds of abilities you think are associated with success at the tasks and, more specifically, the abilities of the different group members.*

As you know, each of you will be paid an initial amount for every meeting, $20. So that is $20 for group meeting one, $20 for group meeting 2 and $20 for group meeting three. Plus, you will be eligible for an additional bonus after study three. The bonus depends on how many correct responses your group develops. The bonuses at the end will range from 5 dollars to 15 dollars per person.

So at this third meeting, you will meet for the third time, interact on a third task and then also find out how your group did on all 3 tasks and consequently how much bonus you will earn in addition to the $20 for each group meeting.

Again, I want to emphasize the nature of these group tasks. They are complex and involve many, many different abilities and skills. While some people will have some skills and abilities, others will have others It would be extremely unlikely that one person to have all the necessary skills and abilities.

So in summary:

1. You will be meeting once a week for three weeks with the same group members;
2. The tasks you will be working on require many different skills and abilities;
3. At the end of each task, you will fill out a questionnaire; part of that questionnaire will require you to think about and assess the varied and different abilities of the different group members.
4. Past research has indicated that people working together perform better than do people working alone.

Thank you for your time. The researchers will give you a few instructions and then we will begin.