Biases:

The prevention of biases in an experiment is crucial to its outcome. In order to eliminate all possible biases from my experiment, I did the following;

1. In order to prevent the previous learning abilities and age of the participants causing a bias, I decided to choose members of the junior class as my “victims” and I made sure that all the participants are currently, or were previously in at least one AP or honors class during their high school career.
2. In order to prevent gender causing a bias, I decided to have an equal number of males and females in my experiment.
3. In order to prevent culture and ethnicity causing a bias, I decided that on the answer sheet, I would have the participants identify their ethnicity, and that way, I could tell make a generalization about ethnicity groups and the results from such groups.
4. In order to eliminate time biases, I set the experiment up to take place at lunch on all days. Lunch is a good time to conduct the experiment as the participants will not be asleep and tired, like they would be if the testing had taken place earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Other time biases were eliminated by having the exact same schedule and timings for all the experimentation. The time between the showings of the words was exactly the same. The time to think about the words was constant and the time to write down as many of the words as possible was also kept the same.
5. Another bias would be the sharing of information between volunteers. In order to eliminate this bias, I stressed the importance of secrecy amongst the volunteers and asked them not to share any information at all with other participants. I also stressed the importance that the volunteers keep their eyes on their own papers and not look at any else’s answers. I hope that the students complied with my requests, although, I cannot be one hundred percent certain that they did.
6. In order to eliminate any surrounding biases, I asked other people in the classroom to be as quiet as possible whilst my experiment was taking place, and I also conducted all of the experiments in the same classroom.