

Designing Your Social Psychology Experiment

You are designing a *hypothetical* social psychology experiment based on something you've observed in adolescent behavior.

Be creative, but logical, your job is to think like a scientist. You'll present your design to the class, and Mr. Boyce will act as the Human Subjects Review Board.

1. Research Question

Prompt: What question about people or behavior do I want to answer?

2. Hypothesis

What do you predict will happen? This should clearly connect your cause and effect.

If :

then:

3. Operational Definitions

Explain *exactly* how you will measure or manipulate your variables.

I will define my independent variable as:

I will measure my dependent variable by:

Additional Operational definitions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. Independent Variable (IV)

What are you changing or manipulating in your experiment?

The thing I will change is:

5. Dependent Variable (DV)

What are you measuring as a result of that change?

The thing I will measure is:

6. Participants / Volunteer Selection

Who would take part in your study? How will you find them?

My participants will be:

I will select them by:

7. Experimental and Control Groups

How will you compare results? Who experiences the change, and who does not?

My experimental group will:

My control group will:

8. Procedures

Describe your step-by-step plan for how the experiment would run.

Prompt:

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

Step 4:

Step 5:

9. Data Collection Methods

How will you collect your information or observations?

I will collect data by :

My data will look like (numbers, surveys, observations, etc.):

10. Data Analysis

How will you make sense of the results? What counts as “evidence” for your hypothesis?

I will analyze my results by :

I will know my hypothesis is supported if :

11. Potential Confounding Variables

What other factors could affect your results and make them less reliable?

Possible confounds include :

I could reduce these by :

12. Ethical Considerations

Would this study be ethical in real life? Why or why not? What might need to change to make it ethical?

This study would/would not be ethical because :

To make it ethical, I could :

13. Predicted Results & Implications

What do you expect to happen, and what would your results mean about human behavior?

I predict that :

This would show that :