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 :