1. Using the Baron & Kenny approach, evaluate the hypothesis that the effect of neuroticism (**\*\*neuro\*\***) on life satisfaction (**\*\*ls.1\*\***) is mediated by mood (**\*\*gb.1\*\***)
2. Using the mediation package, estimate coefficients for the aforementioned simple mediation model (use the Monte Carlo estimation procedure)
3. Create a density plot that displays the distribution of the indirect effect estimates that were produced by the Monte Carlo estimation procedure (see template R script for detailed instructions)
4. Write up a brief APA style report that details your findings and your interpretations of the mediation model (see example write up on next page for additional detail).

(Reminder: Steps 1-3 can all be done by completing the template R script)

**Example APA write up for simple mediation analysis**

A simple mediation model was constructed to test whether the effect of conscientiousness on life satisfaction is mediated by procrastination. Monte Carlo estimation was used to produce estimates for the direct, indirect, and total effects of the mediation model. There was a significant total effect of conscientiousness on life satisfaction – increases in conscientiousness predicted increases in life satisfaction (*c* path; *β* = 1.47, *p* < .001). Additionally, increases in conscientiousness significantly predicted decreases in procrastination (*a* path; *β* = -0.36, *p* < .001). However, there was a significant indirect effect of conscientiousness on life satisfaction through procrastination (*ab* path; *β* = 1.24, *p* < .001) and, after accounting for the effect of the mediator, the direct effect of conscientiousness on life satisfaction was no longer significant (*c’* path; *β* = 0.23, *p* = .71). These findings suggest that the effect of conscientiousness on life satisfaction is fully mediated by procrastination. The distribution of the estimated indirect effect is depicted in *Figure 1*.