

## Student Participation in Psychological Research

All students in Psychology 1410 are required to earn 5% of their grade through participation in psychological research or an equivalent written assignment. This is a class assignment, not “extra credit,” and failing to meet this assignment will lead to a penalty in your grade of up to 5%. Two options are available to you, research participation or a written report. **Important:** Students who are less than 18 years of age must do a written report.

You will need to be able to access your MTSU email account to use the research pool. If you are having trouble accessing your email account, call the OIT Help Desk at 898-5345. Please be courteous when participating in research. Silence all cell phones prior to the beginning of the research, do not take calls during the research session, and try not to disturb other students during a research session.

**Credits.** You must earn **4 credits** to receive your full 5%. Each half hour of research participation is worth 1 credit. Research projects vary in duration and you will be given credit based on the project’s length. Monday, 16 Apr. is the last day to participate in research for class credit or submit a report.

**How to sign-up.** You can use any computer with internet access to sign up for research studies via the MTSU Experiment Sign-Up System. Go to the MTSU Research Pool Page for instructions on how to sign up for research studies: <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/ResearchPoolPage.html>

**How to participate.** Go to the session at the designated time and place. You will need a blue Experiment Record Card as a receipt of attendance. You may obtain a blue Experiment Record Card from the researcher or from your instructor. Be sure to take good care of your blue Experiment Record Card as your instructor may ask you to turn in this card. The researcher will conduct the research, and place a sticker on and sign your blue Experiment Record Card. For online studies, print the credit receipt that will be emailed to you and attach it to the blue card.

**Canceling Your Participation.** If you cannot keep an appointment, you must cancel your participation by going to the MTSU Experiment Sign-Up System and removing yourself from the research. You may cancel up to one hour before the research is scheduled to begin.

**No Show Policy.** If you miss three appointments without canceling (have three no shows), you will be removed from the experiment sign-up system and will have to do a written report. Canceled appointments will **not** count as a no show. If you have an appropriate excuse (e.g., an emergency prevented both your attendance and canceling the appointment), you may appeal a no show to the research pool director (William Langston, contact information below).

**Researcher no-shows.** If a researcher cannot attend, you still get credit for showing up for the research. If you show up and the researcher is not there, log into the MTSU Experiment Sign-Up System and double check that you were in the right place at the right time. If so, contact the research pool director (William Langston, contact information below) with the details of the research. Note: If you are more than 10 minutes late for a research study, you will be recorded as having missed your appointment.

**Did the Instructor get notified of my participation?** Log into the MTSU Experiment Sign-Up System and look at your credit report. Researchers are required to enter credits within seven (7) days of your participation. If you did not receive the correct number of credits, email the research pool director (William Langston) with the experiment number and the date and time of your participation.

**Problem?** Contact Dr. William Langston, [william.langston@mtsu.edu](mailto:william.langston@mtsu.edu), JH 348, 898-5489.

## Written Report for Research Credit

**Who must do a written report.** If you choose not to participate in research or are less than 18 years of age, you may fulfill your research credit requirement by completing a written report.

**How to do a written report.** You may use the library's e-reserve system to locate written report articles. Instructions are available on the research pool page:  
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/ResearchPoolPage.html>

To obtain full credit you must first read one of the articles and answer a set of questions on the written report form. The written report form may be downloaded from the department's research pool page:  
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/ResearchPoolPage.html>

Answers must be typed using complete grammatical sentences. This exercise is designed to take approximately 2 hours (the same amount of time as research participation).

**How to turn in the report. Give the completed form to your instructor by Monday, 16 Apr. (even if your class does not meet on Mondays).** Your instructor will forward the form to the graduate assistant in charge of research credits. Your credits will then be listed with those of students participating in research.

**Did the Instructor get notified of my participation?** Your instructor will be given a list of student credits. You can check this record to be sure you received proper credit. There is typically a one to two week delay between when you turn in a report and when your credit will be given to your instructor.

**Problem?** Contact Dr. William Langston, [william.langston@mtsu.edu](mailto:william.langston@mtsu.edu), JH 348, 898-5489.

### Guidelines Used to Assign Full or Partial Credit for Written Assignments

- Full Credit (4 points):** The report has been completed thoroughly, with responses demonstrating that the student carefully read the article and made an attempt to answer the questions correctly. Questions are answered using complete sentences.
- Partial Credit (3 points):** Some answers were completed thoroughly, while others were incomplete.
- Partial Credit (2 points):** Answers provide evidence that the student rushed through the assignment or did not completely read the article (e.g., minimal and incomplete sentences resulting in incomplete answers).
- Partial Credit (1 point):** Same as partial credit above, but some questions are left unanswered by the student.