

The Lab in Research Methods in Psychology  
PSY 3071  
Fall 2016

Past Idea Statements from Students that Were Approved

1. This study would recruit 100 students to participate in a survey in which they would be asked their age, gender, height, and weight. They will also be asked to check their body type on the morphological picture scale (see the attachment). Another survey will be given that will ask questions concerning their attitudes towards various body types. The basic idea is to determine the degree of negative attitudes towards overweight people, if any, in light of recent media attention on skinny models, and promotion of "big is beautiful." It may be society today is more embracing and positive regarding weight and body type than it was a decade ago (or more)
2. Student involvement on campus is very important and can change a student's outlook on their college experience. I will create a survey that asks students about their level of involvement on campus whether it be sports, extra-curricular activities, greek-letter organizations, religious groups etc. I will be testing whether or not involvement on campus increases a student's overall satisfaction with their undergraduate career. The survey will be given to all ages, races, genders and cultural backgrounds. The purpose of this study would be to show students that participating and getting involved on campus can increase their overall satisfaction with their undergraduate college experience.  
Skip Comment: No making up your own survey. All studies must use valid and reliable surveys that have been used in previous research.
3. I would like to measure the effectiveness of small toys (stress balls, Koosh balls, etc) in an adult learning environment for new employees in a retail store learning various new tasks. There will be two groups: one group that has "toys" to play with while in class and another group that does not have any external stimulation while learning. The ball will be the independent variable, and a quiz that is given at the end of the training will be the dependent variable. The quiz will cover various questions from the topics that were discussed each day and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The topics that are trained will be company culture, products, sales process, and AT&T. I will be the facilitator, thus creating the learning environment, and the methods of learning will be strictly lecture and hands-on experience. They will be primarily focusing on skills that they need for their new job, but will also need to apply their memory to the material so that they retain as much as possible when they go to the store for their first shift. My hypothesis would be that if an adult has something to play with quietly while learning in an adult learning environment, retention of the material taught will be higher.