

Graduate Student Research Interview PSY 1001 – Extra Credit

Your Name & ID Number: _____

Your Section Leader's Name: _____

Graduate Student's Name: _____

Date & Time: _____

The purpose of this exercise is to give you an opportunity to learn more about psychological research from a graduate student. There are two parts to this exercise:

- First, you will interview the graduate student using the questions below (and any others you care to ask – this is a great chance to learn all about doing research!)
- Second, you will write a summary of what you've learned about the research project you just discussed on the back of this sheet.

When you are finished, please return this sheet to the graduate student you interviewed. He or she will hand it off to Kate to ensure you get the extra credit you've earned (1 point for each 30 minutes).

Questions You Might Ask...

What is/are your research question(s)?

Why is this study necessary/useful?

What findings do you expect? What are your hypotheses?

How will you obtain your research sample? How are you defining and measuring your variables of interest?

What research methods will you use to investigate your hypotheses? (If this is correlational research, what are the variables under investigation? If this is experimental research, what is the independent variable, what is the dependent variable. If this is a survey, how was this survey developed?)

How will you analyze the data you obtain?

Will you attempt to publish these findings? If so, in which publication(s)? Why are you targeting this/these publication(s)?

What follow-on studies will you conduct as a result of this research?

What has your overall experience been like with this project? What have you learned? What has been rewarding? What challenges have you faced?

Now, imagine that you are a journalist writing a short article for the newspaper about research currently going on at the University of Minnesota. Use what you've learned to write a summary of the research project you just discussed below. Practice writing in the following format (look on the website for examples):

(Name of researcher) looked at (research question.) Explain their research method.

How many participants were studied? How did they define and measure their variables?

What were their findings? What conclusions can be drawn from this research?