

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT (Spring 2021)

This document explains how to fulfill the General Psychology or Research Methods research requirement and how to earn additional bonus points that will be added to your grade. Note that there may be announcements in class that you will need to hear.

Exposure to research is designed to be an interesting educational experience that is an integral part of your introduction to Psychology. Feel free to ask researchers questions if you are interested in learning more.

AS PART OF YOUR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY or RESEARCH METHODS COURSE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO EARN A MINIMUM OF SEVEN (7) RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS. The seven required points will count for 10% of your grade in the course!

YOU CAN ALSO EARN EXTRA RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS. Think of these additional (bonus) points as “extra credit” points that can be earned in addition to the seven points that are required. These additional points are added to your test scores and will only affect your grade positively. Your instructor will determine the limit on extra points that can be added to your test scores.

IF YOU ARE NOT YET 18 YEARS OF AGE, YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDIES WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN!!! This is a matter of U.S. Government laws and regulations. If you are under 18, please contact the Main Psychology Department Office (330-672-2166 or psych@kent.edu) at the beginning of the semester for Parental Consent Forms and further instructions, as the forms will take time to complete.

YOU CAN EARN YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS IN TWO WAYS:

- You can participate in psychological research studies. If you choose to do this, you get **one point for each half hour that you participate in a study** (30 minutes = 1 pt.).
- You can write a research paper about a psychology study published in a journal (1 page = 1 pt.).

THE RESEARCH STUDY OPTION: HOW TO SIGN UP

- You can sign up for research studies by using the Kent State General Research Website at <http://kentstate.sona-systems.com>. See the attached handout for information about how to use the website.
- You will receive an email containing your User ID to set up your account on the website. If you have not received this email by the Friday of the first week of class, contact the Subject Pool Manager (subjpool@kent.edu). Once you receive the email containing your User ID, see the attached handout for information about how to complete the process of setting up your account.

WHEN YOU CANNOT KEEP YOUR RESEARCH STUDY APPOINTMENT: You must e-mail the researcher or visit the General Psychology Research website (<http://kentstate.sona-systems.com>) to cancel **at least 24 hours before the participation deadline**. **If you fail to cancel within 24 hours in advance, you will lose your opportunity to earn bonus points, as described below!**

RECEIVING A BONUS POINT FOR KEEPING APPOINTMENTS: For every 6 consecutive credits you show up, you receive one bonus point. If you follow designated procedures for cancellation (particularly procedures for a timely cancellation), you are still eligible for the bonus point. However, if you do complete the study or cancel with less than 24 hours before the participation deadline, the counter for the bonus point is reset to zero you must start accruing the 6 credits necessary to obtain the bonus credit. You keep all points that you have legitimately earned.

Example 1: A student participates in a study in which he/she earns 2 points, a second study in which he/she earns 3 points, signs up for a third study in which he/she would earn 1 point, **but cancels that study third study more than 24 hours in advance of the appointment time**, and the student then participates in a fourth study in which he/she earns 2 points. This student would earn the bonus credit,

because he/she earned 6 points and completed all studies and/or cancelled any appointments more than 24 hours before the appointment time.

Example 2: A student participates in a study in which he/she earns 2 points, a second study in which he/she earns 1 point, and then **fails to complete** a third study. Because the student did not show up for the third study, he/she does not earn the bonus point at this time. However, if after the no show, the student then participates in a fourth study worth 3 and a fifth study worth 3 points and attends and completes the studies, he/she then would earn the bonus point.

NOTE: All bonus points will be awarded at the END of the semester, after the deadline for participation for the semester. Bonus points are usually posted by the first day of Final Exam week, and you will receive an email to let you know when your bonus points have been posted. After your bonus points have been posted, you will need to go in and assign them to your course (see further instructions below and in the attached handout).

WHEN YOU ARE AT THE RESEARCH STUDY:

1. You will be asked to read and sign a **consent form** to read and sign. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the researcher about them before participating in the study.
2. You have the **RIGHT TO REFUSE** to participate or to stop participating at any time during the research study. There are no penalties for exercising these rights.
3. **COURTEOUS, RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR:** The research study sessions are **PART OF YOUR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE! YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING A RESEARCH STUDY IN THE SAME WAY YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING AN EXAM IN YOUR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE.** Any behavior that disrupts a research study even slightly is a Conduct Court offense!

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS

1. **KEEP ALL INFORMATION FROM ALL OF THE STUDIES YOU PARTICIPATE IN** until you get your final course grade.
2. If two weeks have passed from the date of your participation and your research participation point total is still not correct, contact the Subject Pool Manager (subjpool@kent.edu) to fill out a Point Verification form and get further instructions (You should have your consent form(s) from the study or studies with you!!).
3. **RESOLVE ANY POINT PROBLEMS** by 12:00 p.m. on **May 3, 2021**. Even if everything has seemed correct, check your points during the beginning of the last week of classes! Please report problems to the Subject Pool Manager.

DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no points from studies will be accepted. **The deadline is 7:00 p.m. on April 30, 2021.** However, be alert for changes in the deadline that might need to be made for this particular semester. **NOTICE: THIS IS THE DEADLINE FOR ACTUALLY BEING IN THE STUDY! YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE SIGNED UP EARLIER!**

ALSO REMEMBER: As noted above, research studies **CAN START TO WIND DOWN EVEN BEFORE THE DEADLINE**, so if you wait too long before starting to get your points, you may not be able to get them.

THE RESEARCH PAPER OPTION:

This alternative for earning research participation points involves reading and writing about a published psychological study. The idea is to do some reading about psychological research beyond what is in your textbook. You may combine points from research papers and study participation for the required seven (7) points and for the bonus points.

To participate in the Research Paper Option:

1. Choose a Psychology-related **JOURNAL ARTICLE**. Journals published by the American Psychological Association are very good. A few examples of relevant journals are *Journal of*

Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, and Child Development. Articles on psychological topics from *Scientific American* or *American Scientist* are also excellent; they use little technical language. Popular magazines such as *Psychology Today* are NOT ACCEPTABLE for research papers. The Library Reference Desk people are very helpful and can assist you in locating journals. **The article that you select should be at least 2 pages long in the journal.**

2. Read the article and write a 1-2 page account of what you got from it, demonstrating that you have understood the article. (One page = about 260 words, regardless of the font size or margins) The report should be well written – organized, grammatically correct – but does not have to be a completely polished term paper. **Two pages (520 words) is the maximum you are allowed to write about one article.**
3. The report should be typed or printed from a word processor (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). If you cannot type it, see the Subject Pool Manager for permission to turn it in handwritten.
4. Any report that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from a research article will automatically be rated **not acceptable**. (That is plagiarism, and we do check for it.)
5. On an additional title page, you **must** include this information:
 - o Your name
 - o Your General Psychology instructor and class time
 - o Your kent.edu email address
 - o The title of the article you read
 - o The author of the article you read
 - o The name of the journal
 - o The date and/or volume number of the journal (e.g., year and month)
 - o The page numbers in of the article in the magazine or journal
 - o If on-line, the link to the article
6. Email your paper to subjpool@kent.edu.
7. Number of Points Awarded: If the report is acceptable, you will receive 1 point for each page (260 words) you write, but not more than 2 points for any particular article you read.
8. DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no papers will be accepted for research participation points. **The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.** Note that this is earlier than the deadline for participating in research studies, to allow time for your papers to be graded. Also note that if you wanted to get your points by participating in research and waited so long that many of the studies had finished up, you could also be past the deadline for the research paper option.

ASSIGNING RESEARCH CREDITS TO YOUR COURSE:

For students enrolled in more than one class offering credit for research experience: You will need to indicate which course you want to assign each of your earned credits. The attached handout includes instructions for how to assign your earned research credits to your courses. **IMPORTANT: YOU CAN ONLY ASSIGN EARNED CREDITS TO ONE COURSE—THE SAME CREDITS CANNOT BE ASSIGNED TO MORE THAN ONE COURSE.**

For all students: Even if you are only enrolled in one course offering credit for research experience, all non-study credits (from writing papers and/or from bonus points for not missing studies) must be assigned to your course. Follow the instructions in the attached handout for assigning credits.

DEADLINE: There is a deadline by which you must have assigned all of your earned research credits to your course. **The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021.** After this deadline, the final credit reports will be given to instructors and no changes can be made to credit assignments after that point.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS: If you should ever have any problems connected with research participation (whether it's directly connected with your points or not), we want to hear from you. You can email us at subjpool@kent.edu or email jtaber1@kent.edu directly. All complaints are held in strict confidence.

LAST REMINDERS:

1. **DEADLINE for emailing/turning in research papers is Tuesday, April 20, by 5:00 pm.**
2. **DEADLINE for participating in research studies is Friday, April 30, by 7:00 pm.**
3. **DEADLINE for resolving problems with research participation points is Monday, May 3, by 12:00 pm.** Remember to check your research participation points and get problems resolved by the deadline!
4. **DEADLINE for assigning research credits to your course(s) is Thursday, May 6, by 5:00 p.m.**
5. Also remember that relevant announcements may be made in class; if you don't come to class you could miss them.
6. The Subject Pool Manager will be available online and will email with virtual office hour times.