Psychology **FINAL** Project

This project is **100 points and worth 20%** of your ENTIRE class grade. For your final project, you will be choosing one research question that you’d like to gain some information about or perhaps even an answer to. You will “do” this question and report back to the class. The **in-class presentation** of this project is due on:_________________________. Besides picking your question, you have to decide how to present it. Options include MovieMaker, Prezi, Photostory, PowerPoint or other Presentation formats that I approve.

**You need to:**

1. Pick a question to “do”.

2. Establish a hypothesis.

3. Include a brief summary of the general background of your topic (i.e. if you do something on colors, than the general psychological topic would be **perception** or **sensation**). In other words, why would the psychological world care about your question? Has your question or experiment been completed before by professionals? What is the existing research on your topic? Let us know. You should incorporate psychological principles and concepts to which your topic relates throughout your project. Use the psyche lingo!

4. Decide what methodology you will use to “do” the question (i.e. experiment, survey, naturalistic observations, interviews). You must provide detailed information regarding your methodology (type, sample size, variables, possible mistakes you made, etc.). Surveys/interviews must have at least 15 questions.

5. Decide if you will work alone or with a partner. Choose your partner wisely, if you decide to de-friend or unfollow this person on social media or break-up with this person at any time during this course (meaning the night before the project is due), **you will be required to choose a new topic, re-research and present to a panel of teachers at lunch by yourself.** NO EXCEPTIONS! Class time is limited and we cannot wait for you.

6. “Do” your question. Perform your experiments, create your surveys etc. **You must have either video or photo documentation of this.** If it is an experiment (which most of them should be), use our class as subjects. We need to see what you actually did. Make sure you have utilized at least 30 people for a survey and at least 10 for a hands-on experiment. Use Survey Monkey or another online survey tool to generate a survey and post on social media/send through email. **You must allow our class to participate in your research in an engaging manner.**
7. **Gather your results, analyze your data, draw conclusions and create your presentation.**
   Tell us the story of how you got to where you are at the end of your project. Perhaps, perform your experiment on the class as part of your presentation. Use clips. Make it fun. Presentations should be 8-10 minutes in length.

**Deadlines:**

**Deadline #1 Topic Proposal**

Due: ____________________________

**Deadline #2 Methodological Tool (experiment layout, completed surveys, materials etc.)**

Due: ____________________________ (I want a copy of your survey, experiment worksheet etc. on this day)

**Deadline #3 In-Class Presentation**

Due: ____________________________

**Additional Hints & Reminders:**

- There are numerous sites for you to find a question listed on my class website. There are also student examples.
- Follow the rubric provided to you closely.
- You will not have in-class time to learn how to use PhotoStory or MovieMaker. Visit my Website ---> Psychology Core Project page for How-To Help.
- If you are using a Mac program for movies make sure that we can view it in school way before your presentation date.
- Be careful of filming in public places. In most public venues, filming is against the law.
- **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!** If you do not pass the project, there is a very good possibility you will NOT pass the course.

**Possible Ideas:**

| 1. Do colors really impact moods? Do some colors make people feel calm and others leave them feeling agitated? | 21. Research and recreate the Cocktail Party effect (the ability to focus one's listening attention on a single talker among a mixture of conversations and background noises, ignoring other conversations). |
| 2. Recreate (in a safe way), the bystander effect. | 22. Can certain colors improve learning? Design an experiment to see whether using a specific color of paper helps |
| 3. Do people pick their friends based on same level of attractiveness? |  |
people's perception of events? (i.e. that car SLAMMED into the pole OR that car HIT the pole.)
5. Do people remember products based on the songs that play in commercials (i.e. Apple always has cool new songs!)
6. Can people identify common sounds without seeing them?
7. Does wearing eyeglasses make you look smarter?
8. Does birth order really matter?
9. Recreate the change blindness experiment.
10. Is there a correlation between music tastes and personality type?
11. Determine which scent (i.e. lavender, vanilla, cinnamon, peppermint, citrus), will help people remember the most amount of words.
12. Can people identify scents, things that they touch or smells with all of their other senses cut off?
13. The effect of background noise on memory.
14. Examine whether spiritual and/or religious students have positive outcomes in academic performance in the classroom.
15. Find out if brand name causes consumers to have predetermined opinions about a product.
16. The effects of breathing techniques on test anxiety.
17. Can color cause physiological reactions? Perform an experiment to determine whether certain colors cause a participants' blood pressure to rise or fall.
18. The effect of need for achievement on student's susceptibility towards cheating.
19. Personality judgments based on physical appearance.
20. The effects of music on memory and word recall.
21. improve students' scores on tests.
22. Is there a correlation between personality type and reality TV watchers?
23. Can different types of music lead to different physiological responses? Measure the heart rates of participants in response to various types of music to see if there is a difference.
24. Does eating breakfast really help students do better in school? Compare test scores of students who ate breakfast to those who did not.
25. Do people who use the social media site Facebook exhibit signs of addiction?
26. Create an experiment on perceptions/stereotypes/biases etc.
27. What is more distracting while watching movie; texting or talking on the phone?
28. How much information can people store in short-term memory? A simple word memorization experiment is an excellent and fairly easy psychology experiment idea.
29. What is the Stroop Effect?
30. Can smelling one thing while tasting another impact a person's ability to detect what the food really is?
31. How likely are people to conform to the opinions of a group? This conformity experiment (originally done by Soloman Asch) investigates the impact of group pressure on individual behavior.
32. Do "left-brained" people see optical illusions differently than "right-brained" people?
33. Are there a gender differences in performance on math tests?
34. Personal space?
35. Student and/or teachers' perceptions of standardized testing (like the PSSA).
Deadline #1: Topic Proposal

Due:

Answer the questions below using COMPLETE sentences.

1. What is your proposed topic or question?

2. Through which medium (MovieMaker, PhotoStory, PowerPoint, etc.) are you going to present your project? How will you engage us in your research? How will you make it interactive?

*If you are working with a partner, please sign here to show you are aware that you will be required to choose a new topic, re-research and present to a panel of teachers at lunch by yourself if ANYTHING should disrupt your ability to work within your chosen partnership.

Signatures: ______________________________________________________________________________ Date:________

_______________________________________________________________________________ Date:__________

3. How does your topic connect to Psychology? Why would the psychological world “care” about your question?

4. What is your hypothesis?

5. What research method(s) do you plan to employ (interviews, surveys, simple experiment or naturalistic observation?)

6. Please list two reputable sources you plan to use for when you give us a brief summary of the general background of your topic (articles from magazine, website links etc.):

   1. __________________________________________________________

   2. __________________________________________________________

Points Received: ______________/10 points