



For this week you will re-write and expand your week 5 & 7 assignments to finish the introduction of your paper. You will present your research ideas for feedback during discussion group; we will be pairing off again to review each other's proposal.

Turn the Worksheet from last week into several typed pages of text. We strongly encourage you to submit a longer version as a first draft of your paper. Write this as a decent draft of the introduction & methods of your paper, not just as a homework assignment. The more work you do on this now the more feedback you can get in discussion group.

In-group dyads will write notes on each other's introductions. Each student will specifically answer the questions given below for their partner's paper.

Phenomenon. What is the question?

- What larger issue needs explaining; What do we not know enough about?
- Why is it important?
- What can you assume; what does not need to be explained?

You began this in Week 5, now be more specific and concrete; Risk taking behaviors can lead to many social or personal problems. Despite a lot of research, it remains difficult to understand people who (should) “know better” engage in behaviors that put them at risk for injury, sexually transmitted infections or the like.

- **Theory.** How do you explain the phenomenon? How do you think it works?
 - What basic social, psychological or physical processes (Hypothetical Constructs) underlie the phenomenon?
 - How are they related?
 - Are there important mediating variables?
 - *Do NOT just state your hypothesis.*

Expand – or rewrite – your discussion from Weeks 5 & 7, referring to one or both the papers you found during Week 5. Cite the hypothetical constructs that comprise your explanation. Jones' (1996) personality theory describes impulsivity as a stable personality trait that develops as a consequence of certain social contexts or brain structures. Impulsivity may underlie some people's disposition toward risk-taking. Impulsivity may help us explain risk-taking disposition because...

- **Hypothesis;** Write a concrete prediction that flows from and tests the theory.
 - Cast the the theory-based hypothetical constructs into specific **variables**.
 - What is the Independent Variable? Dependent Variable? How does one affect the other?
 - **Do not be vague or general here:** *I hypothesize that if I induce impulsivity in people they will be less able to resist a high risk social situation than will participants who I have not made temporarily impulsive...*



- **Methods**

- What is your **sample**?
 - What (sub)population will you generalize to in this study?
 - What are the inclusion /exclusion criteria for your sample?
 - Probability / random or non-probability sample?
 - How will you actually recruit / enroll them?

I will recruit students drawn randomly from UIC. Participants must report at least one behavior they felt was “risky”. Students who consistently use alcohol or drugs will be excluded...

- **Operationally define** the variables in your hypothesis.
 - What specific procedures will you do to manipulate your Independent variable?
 - How, specifically, will you measure your Dependent variable?

I will induce impulsivity by creating a computer simulation where participants are rewarded for very fast decisions; they will be rewarded primarily for speed, whether they are right or wrong will make little difference. The “non-impulsivity” condition will be similar, except slower, more careful decisions will be rewarded. The outcome variable will be participants’ responses to a subsequent, hypothetical social situation, where they are given the opportunity to engage in X or Y risky behaviors....

- What will be your overall **research design**?
 - Will you perform a True experiment, where you manipulate the independent variable, randomly assign participants to groups, etc?
 - What would this look like?
 - Or, will you conduct a Quasi-experiment, where participants are not randomly assigned to groups, are from existing groups, are not blind, or in some other way are not equivalent at baseline?
 - What would this look like?
 - How will you address or compensate for possible sampling or other biases in the study?
 - Why would you use one rather than the other?

Note:

- You must propose an experiment, not a correlational study:
 - You must manipulate the Independent Variable, not simply measure it.
- Keep it simple!!
 - Only one independent variable;
 - A simple 2-group design;
 - One dependent variable;
 - Simple manipulations and measures.
- You must cite and submit the abstracts of two experimental (not correlational) studies. When searching consider using "experiment" as a search term.