

Methods

25 points

Participants:

- Who are your research participants? What type of sample is this (e.g., random, convenience, targeted, etc.)
- Here / how did you recruit them?
- If there are serious sampling limitations mention them here and explain why your approach was still justified.

Procedures:

- What was the overall design?
- Was this a true experiment or a quasi-experimental study?
- What were the overall study procedures?
- What, step-by-step, did you do with each participant?
- How did you obtain informed consent? What ethical issues may there be (e.g., stressful conditions, deception or placebo groups...), and how did you deal with them?

Measures:

How did you construct your Independent Variable?

- Was it a quasi-independent variable?
 - Based on an existing group membership (people who got therapy v. those who did not, Republicans v. Democrats, etc...)?
 - Based on a measurement (people above or below some score on a scale, e.g., high v. low stress...)?
- Was it a true independent variable, i.e. that you manipulated or controlled?
 - Was it presented directly, such as a drug dose?
 - What was the dose?
 - How do you know it was the correct dose?
 - Was it presented indirectly, such as instructional conditions designed to induce stress v. relaxation?
 - How do you know you actually induced the condition you meant to? What was your manipulation check?

How did you operationally define your Dependent Variable?

- Specifically, where did your numbers come from – what kind of measures did you use, how did you go from, e.g., a bunch of survey questions to an actual score, etc.
- Were the measures known to be reliable and valid? How?