

AP Psychology Research Terms

- 1) **Theory**- an explanation using an integrated set of principles that organizes observations and predicts behaviors or events
- 2) **Null Hypothesis**- typically states that there is no relationship between two measured phenomena, or that a potential treatment has no effect.
- 3) **Hypotheses**- is a testable prediction, often implied by a theory
- 4) **Scientific Controls**- are procedures that ensure that data is valid in a scientific study. Ex: placebo, experimental and control groups, single-blind procedure, double-blind procedure, etc.
- 5) **Operational Definition**- a statement of the procedures (operations) used to define research variables. Ex: human intelligence- may be operationally defined as what an intelligence test measures. (control)
- 6) **Replication**- repeating the essence of a research study, usually with different participants in different situations, to see whether the basic finding extends to other participants and circumstances
- 7) **Population**- all the cases in a group being studied, from which samples may be drawn
- 8) **Subject Selection**- the process by which the participants in a study are obtained. Ex: random sample, representative sample
- 9) **Representative Sample**- a chosen group of participants that would closely resemble the total population
- 10) **Random Sample**- a sample that fairly represents a population because each member has an equal chance of inclusion (control)
- 11) **Random Assignment**- assigning participants to experimental or control groups by chance, thus minimizing preexisting differences between those assigned to the different groups (control)
- 12) **Single-blind Procedure**- an experimental procedure in which the research participants are ignorant about whether one has received the treatment or a placebo. (control)
- 13) **Double-Blind Procedure**- an experimental procedure in which the research participants and the research staff are ignorant about whether the research participants have received the treatment or a placebo. (control)
- 14) **Placebo Effect**- experimental results caused by expectations alone; any effect no behavior caused by the administration of an inert substance or condition, which is assumed by the recipient as an active agent. (control)
- 15) **Independent Variable**- the experimental factor that is manipulated; the factor that might produce an effect in an experiment
- 16) **Confounding Variables**- a factor other than the independent variable the might produce an effect in an experiment. (control)
- 17) **Dependent Variable**- the outcome factor; the factor that may change in response to manipulations of the independent variable.
- 18) **Experimental Group**- in an experiment, the participants that are exposed to the treatment, that is, to one version of the independent variable (control)

- 19) **Control Group**- in an experiment, the participants that are *not* exposed to the treatment; contrasts with the experimental group and serves as a comparison for evaluating the effect of the treatment (control)
- 20) **Generalization**- to extend research finding of a sample group to the larger target population
- 21) **Experimenter Bias**- is a process where the scientists performing the research influence the results, in order to portray a certain outcome. (control)
- 22) **Ethics for Human**- principles provided by the APA: 1) obtain informed consent, 2) protect them from harm and discomfort, 3) treat information about individual participants confidentially, 4) fully debrief people.
- 23) **Informed Consent**- an ethical principle that research participants be told enough to enable them to choose whether they wish to participate.
- 24) **Deception**- when researchers intentionally act or withhold information from participants so that they hold false beliefs; used sparingly; only when researchers believe it is essential to a justifiable end.
- 25) **Debriefing**- the post experimentation of a study, including its purpose and any deception, to its participants.
- 26) **Ethics for Nonhuman Subjects**- the APA Ethics Code requires that institutions that allow animal experimentation to take place establish an Animal Care and Use Committee to review whether the studies done on animals follow ethical standards
- 27) **Abstract**- is a concise summary of a larger project (a thesis, research report, performance, service project, etc.) that concisely describes the content and scope of the project and identifies the project's objective, its methodology and its findings, conclusions, or intended results.