

## SUNY Fredonia Psychology Department Research Participation - Guide for Introductory Psychology Students -

### Why Participate?

The foundation on which psychology stands is a large body of research. All areas of psychology draw heavily from research, but there is much more to learn. Research is currently being conducted here at SUNY Fredonia to learn more about such topics as developmental psychology, child language acquisition, memory, comprehension, human computer interaction, gender issues, cross-cultural psychology, sport psychology and exercise behavior, spirituality, and impression formation and attitude change.

There are at least three specific reasons why students should participate in the extra-credit opportunities. 1) The various research projects allow students to learn about the procedures and topics involved in current psychological research. 2) Student participation helps to further the science of psychology. 3) Students receive extra-credit toward their course grade.

### Ways of Earning Extra-Credit:

There are two ways to earn extra-credit: 1) participate in an experiment, or 2) read an article from a psychology journal and write a review of the article. Participation in an experiment is recommended over reading and reviewing articles because it gives students first hand experience with the research process. To participate in a psychology experiment you must be 18 years of age or older.

### The Research Participation System:

In order to view research opportunities and sign up to participate, you will need to log onto the Psychology Department research participation website (<http://fredonia.sona-systems.com/>). A detailed user's guide and FAQ for the system are available on the Psychology Department website. Students receive an email after the first week of classes with the password needed to access their account. If you have lost your password, request it using the link on the front page of the research participation website. If you never received a password, the same user ID needed to log into your Fredonia email account can be used to request a password.

All available research opportunities are posted on the research participation website. In the *Studies* section of the website you can view information about the studies, check the times available for participation, and sign up to participate. In the *My Schedule/Credits* section you can view the studies you have signed up for, cancel appointments for participation, and monitor the number of credits you have completed. In the *My Profile* section you can change your password and your email address.

You will periodically receive email notifications of new research opportunities. In addition, you will receive an email confirmation when you sign up for a study, cancel a study, or receive credit for a study. Reminder emails are also sent the day before a study. All emails should be kept for your personal records.

### Credits:

You will receive 1 credit for every 30 minutes of participation, up to a maximum of 6 credits. When you participate in an experiment you will be given a receipt for your participation. This receipt will contain the experiment number, the date you participated, and the number of credits you earned. This receipt is yours to keep should there be any question about the number of experiments you participated in. **Be sure to keep all of your receipts.**

**Negative Credits:**

If you fail to show-up for an experiment that you signed-up for, you will be given a negative credit. These credits will be subtracted from your positive credits, so you can make them up, but you are better off avoiding them entirely. Showing up for experiments you have signed up for, is the best way to avoid getting negative credits, but there are situations in which you might have to cancel an experiment

**Canceling a Research Sign Up:**

You should cancel all research appointments that you will not be able to keep. There is no penalty for cancelations. Canceling your participation for a study is done by going to the *My Schedule/Credits* section of the research participation website and clicking the cancel button next to the appropriate study. Although some studies can be canceled as late as 2 hours before the scheduled time, others may require more notice. Please carefully make note of the cancelation deadline listed under *Study Information* before signing up.

In the event that you need to miss an experiment and cannot access the internet, call the Psychology Department secretary (673-3129) in advance. You will need to provide the secretary with the experiment name and the date and time of your scheduled appointment. If you miss an experiment and were unable to call or cancel in advance, you must provide written evidence for the absence in order to avoid receiving a negative credit. Take this written evidence, along with the experiment name and date and time of your appointment, to the Psychology Department secretary in Thompson W357.

**Voluntary Participation:**

All participation in research is voluntary. When you arrive for participation, the experimenter will provide you with a description of what you will be doing during the course of the experiment. The experimenter will ask you to sign a consent form. If you feel that you cannot ethically or morally continue to participate in the experiment you may elect to end the experiment, and you will still receive credit for participating.

**Journal Article Review:**

Journal article reviews are the other method of earning extra credit. Each review of a research article is worth 1 credit. The article review, plus a copy of the article should be turned in to your instructor. You may find articles in the on-line library database PsycArticles ([http://www.fredonia.edu/library/db\\_list.asp](http://www.fredonia.edu/library/db_list.asp)). After you navigate to this web page, scroll down and you will see the link for the PsycArticles. Your task is to search the database for an article, read it, and write a 2-3 page review that conforms to the outline below.

**Article Review for Extra-Credit**

**Reviewer's Name**  
**Intro. Instructor's Name**  
**Date Submitted**

**Authors:**

**Date of Publication:**

**Title of Article:**

**Hypotheses of the research:**

**Method**

**Subjects:**

**Independent Variable(s):**

**Dependent Variable(s):**

**Procedure**

**Results:**

**Suggestions for future research:**

**Your comments, criticisms:**