Why is learning about *The Science of Psychology and Research Methodology* important?

For each chapter, you will tell me why learning about the chapter is important.

1. Pick a specific psychological concept.
2. Describe and/or define the psychological concept.
3. Describe an example of that psychological concept. You cannot use an example from class or the textbook.
4. Based on your example, do one of the following:
   a. Describe how learning about this psychological concept changes how you think about yourself.
   b. Describe how learning about this psychological concept changes how you think about others.
   c. Describe how learning about this psychological concept changes how you think about the world around you.
   d. Describe how learning about this psychological concept can be used in your personal life.
   e. Describe how learning about this psychological concept can be used in your potential career.
   f. Describe how learning about this psychological concept can avoid an important misunderstanding.
   g. Describe how learning about this psychological concept can be used to address a social issue or public policy.
Constraints:
• Work in groups of one (by yourself), two (one partner) or three (two partners). One page per group with all your names on it.
• You can answer a question more than once as long as your examples are qualitatively different.

Grading:
• Each set of response (items 1-4 in the box) is worth up to two points to a maximum of six points. Therefore, you must answer at least 3 to earn a maximum of 6.

• You may choose to answer more than 3 to earn 6 points through partial credit.
• When I read your example, I am trying to answer the following questions:
  (1) What is the psychological concept?
  (2) Does your example illustrate the concept? Do not simply restate the definition,
  (3) Why is learning about this concept important or what is the change in thinking or behavior that has occurred now that you learned about __________?
  (4) Is your example an original example? You can’t use an example from the class or textbook.

Due Date:
• These responses are due the day after the exam.
Examples of what I am looking for and not looking for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad:</th>
<th>Learning about Research Methodology Helps me understand the limits of studies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Bad:</td>
<td>Learning about Research Methodology Helps me understand the limits of <strong>correlations</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning about research methodology such as correlations helps me understand that their limits such as <strong>correlations do not necessarily suggest and causal relationship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better</td>
<td>Learning about research methodology such as correlations help me understand that their limits such as correlations do not necessarily suggest and causal relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For example we know that drug use and delinquency are positively correlated (as one goes up, so does the other). This does not mean that drug use causes delinquency and vica versa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If we want to tackle the problem of drug use or delinquency, we would need to perform an experiment and see if there is a third variable such as poverty (or depression or bullying) that leads to both. Making students go to school may not address the problem of drug use if delinquency isn’t the causal mechanism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of what I am looking for and not looking for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad:</th>
<th>Learning about the problems with correlations is important in order to properly interpret the results of studies that use correlations to investigate scientific claims.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Bad:</td>
<td>Learning about the problems with correlations is important in order to properly interpret the results of studies that use correlations to investigate scientific claims about the relation between two variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even less bad, but not quite there:</td>
<td>Learning about the limitations of correlational research is important for interpreting the results when you discover that two variables are related with each other. One limit is that correlations do not suggest causal relation. Correlation can only suggest that the variables co-relate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Better | Learning about the **limitations of correlational research** is important for interpreting the results when you discover that two variables are related with each other. **One limit is that correlations do not suggest causal relation.** Correlation can only suggest that the variables co-relate.  

*For example, we know that for women, not being marriage is associated with poverty (this relation doesn’t exist for men). That means that as women become married, the less likely they are to be in poverty. This does not suggest that marriage CAUSES one to escape from poverty and that the government should not develop programs to get women married.*
Another way of thinking about these questions is to imagine that you had a “twin” who didn’t read this chapter. Will the two of you think differently about the world? How does knowing about the material in chapter 1 change how you view the world and others.
Student example

I learned that demand characteristics are aspects of an observational setting that cause people to behave as they think an observer wants or expects them to behave. I watch a lot of reality shows on television and a lot of outrageous things happen that make me think “is this real or is this scripted?”

Some of the things that people do are so crazy that it almost seems unreal. After learning about demand characteristics, I can now see that most of the crazy things that people do on reality television are probably because of the fact that they know they are being watched and the television producers probably have certain expectations of what might happen and may encourage people to outrageously.

- Psychology concept:
- Description of the psychology concept:
- Example of the psychology concept:
- Why is learning about ________ important?