

Why is learning about Introduction and Research Methods 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) Why is learning about Introduction and Research Methods important? What is the change in thinking or behavior?

Based on your example, do one of the following for part (4):

- 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.

1. Concept 2. Definition 3. Example 4. Change in thinking or behavior
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2 points

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2 points

- You may choose to provide more than 3 examples to earn 6 points through partial credit.
- I do not have a formal due date for these. However, you should
 - Do at least one before the exam.
 - Do NOT wait until week 9 or 10 to start. All work is due Friday at noon of week 10.

Examples of what I am looking for and not looking for

Bad:	Learning about Research Methodology Helps me understand the limits of studies.
Less Bad:	Learning about research methodology such as correlations helps me understand that their limits such as <u>correlations do not necessarily suggest and causal relationship</u>
Better	<p>Learning about research methodology such as correlations help me understand that their limits such as correlations do not necessarily suggest and causal relationship.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Examples of what I am looking for and not looking for

Bad:	Learning about the problems with correlations is important in order to properly interpret the results of studies that use correlations to investigate scientific claims.
Less Bad:	Learning about the problems with correlations is important in order to properly interpret the results of studies that use correlations to investigate scientific claims <u>about the relation between two variables.</u>
Even less bad, but not quite there:	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.
Better	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

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?