

Winter 2026

Alternative Assignment for Research Participation Credits

- **Submission Deadline:** The deadline to submit alternative assignments is **Monday, April 6th at 5PM**
- **Grading:** Assignments will receive a pass or fail (each assignment is worth **one course credit**).
- **Grading Deadline:** Assignments will be graded, and credits posted to CourseLink by **Monday, April 13th at 5 PM**.
- All inquiries about alternative assignments should be addressed to ppadmin@uoguelph.ca. **YOUR COURSE INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS DO NOT READ OR GRADE ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS.**

Participation in research studies has been an important part of the Psychology Department's curriculum for decades. Participating in a research study gives you first-hand experience with the research process and the science of psychology. Participation also enables you to actively contribute to the success of ongoing research at the University of Guelph.

Participation in research should be voluntary. If you do not want to participate in research, you have the option of completing alternative assignments to satisfy the research-participation component of your course. You may fulfill the research participation component of your course using a combination of alternative assignments and participation in studies.

Completing alternative assignments involves:

- Reading research articles from the [Approved Article List](#) .
- **Each alternative assignment you complete satisfactorily will earn 1 credit toward the research requirement in your course.**
- You may complete as many alternative assignments as needed to fulfill the research participation component of your course.
- You must select a new article from the approved list for each credit.
- To earn an alternative assignment credit you must submit a personally written summary and reflection of the article that is between 400-500 words.
- Submit your assignment to the Participant Pool administrators at ppadmin@uoguelph.ca.

Your alternative assignment should:

- Contain two clearly labeled sections: **Summary** and **Reflection**.
- The **Summary** should include:
 - The background and purpose of the study.
 - The methods (including specific hypotheses, and any independent and dependent variables) used in the study.
 - The key findings and implications of the study. We do not expect you to fully understand all of the statistical tests as many of these tests are only taught in upper year courses. You should still be able to identify the key findings and the article's contributions to the field of psychology.
- The **Reflection** should include your personal reflection on the article:
 - Was there anything you found interesting?
 - Were there any concepts you found particularly challenging or difficult to understand?
 - How this research relates to your own life and/or what you've learned in class?
 - **It is not sufficient to restate generic strengths and limitations already provided by the authors.**

Mandatory formatting of your assignment:

- The assignment must be written directly in Google Docs. Please do not copy and paste text directly into Google Docs. If large sections of text are directly copied into Google Docs, the report will be graded as unsatisfactory.
- Between 400-500 words.
- Double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins is preferred.
- The article needs to be read and summarized by the student, NOT by ChatGPT or any other generative-AI tools.
- **Assignments that do not meet the formatting requirements will not be graded.**

Submitting your summary and reflection:

- Once the report is ready to be submitted, click the “Share” button and set the following sharing permissions: “Anyone with the link” and “Editor”. Click on “Copy link” and submit the link to ppadmin@uoguelph.ca
- The subject line must read “Alternative Assignment [Article title], course and section number”.
- **Do not submit multiple assignments in one email or one document.** We receive a large volume of assignments, meaning submitting multiple assignments in one email, or one document, can lead to the assignment being overlooked.
- **Late assignments will not be accepted.** The submission deadline is **Monday, April 6th at 5PM.**
- You will receive a confirmation of receipt within one week of submission.

Grading

- The summary and reflection are graded by the administrators of the participant pool. Each assignment will be graded as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory (i.e., pass/fail). If your assignment is graded as satisfactory, you will receive 1 participation credit (i.e., equivalent to participating in a 1-credit research experiment). No credit is awarded for unsatisfactory assignments.
- To receive a grade of satisfactory, the writing in your summary and reflection must be clear and easy to understand. Your summary and reflection must address all the points listed under the section “Your alternative assignment should” above.
- **Late assignments will automatically be graded as unsatisfactory.**
- Once we receive your alternative assignment, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and a grade posted on SONA within one week.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS GRADED AS UNSATISFACTORY MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED.**