

# Alternate Assignment for Research Participation Credits

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- **Submission Deadline:** The deadline for submitting alternate assignments is **December 1 at 5 PM**.
- **Grading:** Assignments will receive a pass or fail.
- **Grading Deadline:** All assignments will be graded and credits posted to Sona by **December 5 at 5 PM**.
- All inquiries about alternate assignments should be addressed to [ppadmin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ppadmin@uoguelph.ca). **YOUR COURSE INSTRUCTOR AND TAS DO NOT READ NOR GRADE ALTERNATE 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 always be voluntary. If you do not want to participate in research, you have the option of completing alternate assignments to satisfy the research-participation component of your course. Completing alternative assignments involves reading one of the research articles from the [Approved Article List](#) below, and then sending a 400-500 word written summary and critique of the article to the Participant Pool administrators at [ppadmin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ppadmin@uoguelph.ca). Each alternate assignment you complete satisfactorily is equivalent to a 1 credit research experiment. You may complete as many assignments as needed to fulfill the research participation component of your course, although you must select a new article from the approved list each time. You are also welcome to fulfill the research participation component of your course using a combination of alternate assignments and participation in studies.

## Your summary and critique should describe:

- The background and purpose of the study.
- The methods used in the study, making sure to note the specific hypotheses tested, and any independent and dependent variables.
- 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. Based on the authors' discussion of their results, however, you should be able to identify the key findings and how this article contributes to the field of psychology.
- Your personal assessment of the article. Were there any aspects of the research that you found particularly interesting or well executed? Were there any aspects that seemed weak or strange?

## Mandatory formatting of your assignment:

- The only acceptable file formats are the Microsoft Word 2003 format (i.e., .doc) and Portable Document Format (.pdf). Microsoft Office is available on all university computers.
- 400-500 words.

- Double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins.
- **Assignments that do not meet the formatting requirements will be asked to be re-submitted and will not be graded until the assignment meets the formatting requirements above.**

### Submitting your summary and critique:

- E-mail your summary and critique to [ppadmin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ppadmin@uoguelph.ca)
  - Please ensure that your subject line reads “Alternate Assignment [Title of article]” and your course and section number
- Late assignments will not be accepted. The submission deadline is December 1 at 5 PM.
- You will receive a confirmation of receipt within one week of submission.

### Grading

- The summary is graded by the administrators of the participant pool as being 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 must be clear and easy to understand and the summary must address all of the points listed under the section “Your summary and critique should describe” above.
- **Late assignments will automatically be graded as unsatisfactory.**
- Once we receive your alternate assignment, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and a grade posted on Sona within one week.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RE-DO ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENTS IF THEY ARE GRADED AS UNSATISFACTORY.**

### Approved article list

Cho, K., Barnes, C.M., & Guanara, C.L. (2017). Sleepy punishers are harsh punishers: daylight savings time and legal sentences. *Psychological Science*, 28(2), 242-247. [\[LINK\]](#)

Cooney, G., Gilbert, D.T., & Wilson, T.D. (2017). The novelty penalty: why do people like talking about new experiences but hearing about old ones? *Psychological Science*, 28(3), 380-394. [\[LINK\]](#)

Gottwald, J.M., Achermann, S., Marciszko, C., Lindskog, M., & Gredeback, G. (2016). An embodied account of early executive-motor function development: prospective motor control in infancy is related to inhibition and working memory. *Psychological Science*, 27(12), 1600-1610. [\[LINK\]](#)

Holt-Lunstad, J., Smith, T.B., Baker, M., Harris, T., & Stephenson, D. (2015). Loneliness and social isolation as risk factors for mortality: a meta-analytic review. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 10(2), 227-237. [\[LINK\]](#)

Jackson, J.J., Connolly, J.J., Garrison, S.M., Leveille, M.M., Connolly, S.L. (2015). Your friends know how long you will live: a 75-year study of peer-rated personality traits. *Psychological Science*, 26(3), 335-340. [\[LINK\]](#)

Oishi, S., & Kesebir, S. (2015). Income inequality explains why economic growth does not always translate to an increase in happiness. *Psychological Science*, 26(10), 1630-1638. [\[LINK\]](#)

Sonnentag, S. (2012). Psychological detachment from work during leisure time: the benefits of mentally disengaging from work. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 21(2), 114-118. [\[LINK\]](#)

Zaval, L., Markowitz, E.M., & Weber, E.U. (2015). How will I be remembered? Conserving the environment for the sake of one's legacy. *Psychological Science*, 26(2), 231-236. [\[LINK\]](#)