

Psychology Research Activity – Student Handout

In Psychology classes, students are exposed to the results of scientific experiments. For students to better understand how these results were obtained, the UNLV Department of Psychology requires that all PSY 101 students have a direct experience with psychological research.

PSY 101 students are required to earn a minimum of **6 research credits** (NOTE: at least 3 credits must be completed by the semester halfway point; also, only half of the credits can be earned through online experiments).

For other courses, check with your instructor to see if credit is required or if bonus credits are allowed. Credits are earned by participating in experiments, writing summaries of approved articles, or a combination of both. Unfortunately, due to ethical concerns, if you are under 18 years of age you may not participate in experiments (you can complete article summaries).

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE [SONA SYSTEMS WEBSITE](#) TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR YOUR COURSE!! Please register as soon as possible.

Experiments

- Experiments vary in the number of research credits awarded (0.5 – 9 credits)
- All responses and measurements of performance in experiments are kept confidential
- For online experiments, please record the URL (web address) of the experiment
- Please give at least 12 hours notice to cancel an appointment (do this on the Sona website or by contacting the experimenter for that experiment)
- Appointments are easier to obtain at the beginning of the semester than at the end

Article Summaries

- Only those articles on the article summary form (on the Subject Pool website) may be used
- Use the library to locate and download an article, read the article, and then complete the article summary form from the Subject Pool website
- Use **YOUR OWN WORDS** (plagiarism will be reported for disciplinary action)
- Each satisfactory article summary is worth 1 credit - summaries submitted at the deadline that are unsatisfactory will not be permitted to be re-submitted after the deadline

NOTE: The research activity is **MANDATORY** for PSY 101. If you do not complete the 6-credits, your course grade will be reduced by a letter grade. Deadlines are listed on the Subject Pool website. If you dispute your final credit tally, you have until **12 PM on Friday of the last week of classes** (the last week of classes; not Final Exam week) to resolve the situation.

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1) Go to the [Psychology Subject Pool](#) website
- 2) Click “SONA” and request a new account to set up your login and password
- 3) At this point, you can begin participating in experiments and/or completing article summaries
- 4) Questions? Contact the [Subject Pool Coordinator](#)