

G5 - Methods

HCI/PSYCH 522
Iowa State University

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Methods Overview

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15447808/>

The methods section of a research paper provides the information by which a study's validity is judged. Therefore, it requires a clear and precise description of how an experiment was done, and the rationale for why specific experimental procedures were chosen.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/how-to-write-a-method-section-2795726>

- Participants
- Materials
- Design
- Procedure

Participants

<https://www.verywellmind.com/how-to-write-a-method-section-2795726>

You should describe the participants in your experiment including

- who they were (and any unique features that set them apart from the general population),
- how many there were,
- and how they were selected.

For example,

We randomly selected 100 children from elementary schools near the University of Arizona.

Materials

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Describe the

- materials,
- measures,
- equipment, or
- stimuli

used in the experiment.

Two stories from Sullivan et al.'s (1994) second-order false belief attribution tasks were used to assess children's understanding of second-order beliefs.

Design

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Describe the type of design used in the experiment. Specify the variables as well as the levels of these variables. Clearly identify your

- independent variables,
- dependent variables,
- control variables, and
- any extraneous variables that might influence your results.

The experiment used a 3x2 between-subjects design. The independent variables were age and understanding of second-order beliefs.

Procedure

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Explain

- what you had participants do,
- how you collected data,
- the order in which steps occurred, and
- how you will analyze the data.

An examiner interviewed children individually at their school in one session that lasted 20 minutes on average. The examiner explained to each child that he or she would be told two short stories and that some questions would be asked after each story. All sessions were videotaped so the data could later be coded.

Ethical considerations

This is just a course project and therefore not under IRB jurisdiction.

Do not collect any identifying information.

Summary

Be clear and concise about what you are planning to do.

Length:

- Participants (1 sentence/paragraph)
- Materials (1-3 paragraphs)
- Design (1 sentence/paragraph)
- Procedure (1-3 paragraphs)