**Research Participation Assignment**

**Part One: Pre-Lab Questions**

Please answer these questions in full sentences prior to completing steps 2 & 3. You are free to use the text or your class notes to help with your responses, but please use your own words. Each response should be between one sentence and one paragraph. You are welcome to download and type you answers directly into this form, or create your own document with responses. If typing directly in the document, please write your responses in a different color or font so I can easily find them.

1. What is a survey?
2. What is a sample?
3. What is a representative sample?
4. What are some of the strengths of using a survey as a research method?
5. What are some of the weaknesses of surveys?
6. How is a survey both a research tool and a research method?
7. Surveys typically provide data that is correlational in nature. What is a correlation?
8. Define positive, negative, and no correlation.
9. Why CAN’T we determine causation from a correlation?

Part Two: Research Participant

Please go to the Psychological Research on the Net website: <http://psych.hanover.edu/Research/exponnet.html> .

Look through the surveys listed there and find one that interests you and that you are eligible for. You can choose any survey on this particular website. **Before you start, write down the name of the survey and the purpose of the study here**:

1. Name of Survey Chosen:
2. Purpose of Study (Most likely found in the consent form):

Take the survey and please answer your questions honestly and seriously. Because you are participating in someone’s real research, I strongly urge you not to falsify any results. I will not ask you to tell me any of YOUR answers to the test, but I will ask for your initial response/reaction in the final section of the assignment. As you are taking the test, please also focus on the experience. What was comfortable? What wasn’t’? Were any questions or directions unclear? Were any questions leading? Etc… You may find it helpful to jot down some notes about these reactions as you go along.

Part Three: Response Questions

Again, please answer in full sentences. DO NOT tell me any of your answers on the quiz, just evaluate the experience from the perspective of a research participant.

1. What was the experience of taking a psychological survey online like for you overall?
2. Do you think you would be more honest on a survey like this if you were completing it yourself or being interviewed by someone else? Would you be more comfortable face-to-face or online?
3. Did you notice any questions that were unclear or leading? In what ways?
4. Do you think this survey, or online surveys in general, are likely to have a representative sample? Why or why not?
5. Any other observations you want to make about your experience (optional)?

Now, I would like you to switch roles and pretend that you are a researcher investigating the topic of the survey you took. Think about how you might utilize this particular survey and how you might improve it. Again, please respond in complete sentences.

1. Using just the questions presented in the survey (as you remember them), what relationships (correlations) might you investigate? Pick two variables or sections on the survey that might be interesting to compare. What relationship do you predict exists between the two (positive, negative, no correlation)?
2. What might you do to improve the survey? How might you make it more user friendly, current, etc.
3. What questions might you add to the survey to gain more information on the topic? What else would you be interested in knowing that was not present?
4. What steps would you take as a research to use this survey ethically? How might you protect the confidentiality of participants taking this survey?