**Discussion and/or Assignment Questions:**

**Research Questions**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in three different studies. For each study you participate in, answer the following questions:

1. Did the study state the research question? If so, what is it? If not, what do you think the research question may be based on your experiences in the study?
2. Do you think this study is designed in a manner that will effectively address the research question? Defend your answer.
3. What recommendations could you provide to make this study more effective? Justify each recommendation.

**Variables**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in three different studies. For each study you participate in, answer the following questions:

1. Based on the study description and your experiences as a participant, what do you believe the study is attempting to investigate?
2. What variables do you think were measured in the study? For each potential variable, identify whether it is nominal, interval, ordinal or ratio.
3. Is it possible that the study is investigating variables that you would not be aware of as a participant in the study? Explain.

**Hypothesis**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in three different studies. For each study you participate in, answer the following questions:

1. Did the study state the research question? If so, what is it? If not, what do you think the research question may be based on your experiences in the study?
2. Based on your novice understanding of the research question, state a possible hypothesis and null hypothesis.
3. Based on this hypothesis, what are the study variables?

**Question Design**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in ONE of the survey-based studies (the study needs to be a survey as opposed to an experimental manipulation). As you complete the survey, analyze the questions based on your knowledge of question writing guidelines. Complete the survey and answer the following questions:

1. Were there any questions that you believe were “bad” (i.e., violated question writing guidelines)? Why? Explain.
2. Select 1 of the questions you identified as “bad.” Rewrite the question to be more effective.
3. Were there any questions that you believe could have been presented more effectively in a different format? Explain.
4. Select 1 question and write it in 3 different formats (i.e., multiple-choice, Likert, short-answer, dichotomous, multiple-answer, matching, etc.).

**Ethics**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in three different studies. Reflecting on the studies you participated in, answer the following questions:

1. As you completed the studies, did you notice any ethical concerns or considerations? Explain.
2. What ethical concerns arise with conducting research via the Internet that are not present in face-to-face research? How can we address these concerns?

**Topic/Course Exploration**

In this course, we explore a range of psychological concepts and theories relevant to XXX (*insert course name, theme or focus*). To begin this exploration, go to Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and click on XXX (*insert category area relevant to the course*) in the Table of Contents. Select and participate in 3 to 5 studies that look interesting to you. Reflect on your experience and share the following information:

1. What studies did you participate in? Why did you select these studies?
2. Was there anything about the studies in this category that surprised you? Was there anything surprising in the studies you selected to participate in? Explain.
3. How did the studies listed in this category align with the topics to be addressed in this course (see the textbook Table of Contents for an overview of course topics)? Were there specific areas with a lot of research studies available? Were there areas with no research studies available?
4. What areas of this course interest you the most? Why?

**Research Design**

Go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>) and browse the list of available studies. Select and participate in ONE study. Reflecting on the study you participated in, answer the following questions:

1. Was the study you participated in descriptive, correlational or experimental? Defend your answer.
2. Based on the information provided, what do you believe is the central focus of this investigation (in other words, what are the researchers trying to discover)? To what extent is this study an appropriate way to
3. In your opinion, was this a good study? Why or why not?
4. How else could you design research to investigate this issue? Explain an alternative research design.

**Analyzing Psychological Research**

Research is a cyclical process with each study emerging as a function of the research conducted before it. To apply your understanding of the cyclical nature of psychological research, go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>). Select and participate in ONE study. Reflecting on this study, answer the following questions:

1. What was the focus of this study (in other words, what are the researchers trying to discover)?
2. What challenges, confounds or concerns do you have about this study design?
3. How could you design a follow-up study to extend the findings of this research? Share a study design that would provide a logical next step in the research cycle.

**Exploring Psychological Research**

“Psychology is the study of the mind and behavior. The discipline embraces all aspects of the human experience – from the functions of the brain to the actions of nations, from child development to care for the aged. In every conceivable setting from scientific research centers to mental healthcare services, ‘the understanding of behavior’ is the enterprise of psychologists” (APA, 2015, <http://www.apa.org/support/about/apa/psychology.aspx#answer>). Inherent in this definition is the science that underlies our understanding of human nature. To explore a sampling of the wide range of research conducted in psychology, go to Psychological Research on the Net (<http://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>). Select and participate in 3 to 5 studies that look interesting to you. Reflect on your experience and share the following information:

1. What did you find most interesting about the psychological research available on this website?
2. How did your experience participating in these studies align with your preconceptions about psychological research?
3. What topics or studies did you find most surprising? Why?