Activity: Mock IRB for Determining the Ethical Conduct of Psychological Research

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Brief Description:
This activity helps students apply ethical principles from class to a specific research project. Small groups of students serve as a mock Institutional Review Board (IRB) identifying problems and suggesting changes to make the application more ethically sound.

Keywords:
Ethics
Evaluating IRB Applications

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Additional Information:
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Instructors:
This activity was designed to help students apply ethical principles from class to actual research. Therefore, students should have a basic understanding of research ethics and the Belmont Report before completing this assignment.

There are three materials necessary for this activity.
1. There is a fully written IRB “Application Under Review” that purposefully contains several ethical issues. Students will thoroughly evaluate the application to determine if the researcher followed ethical guidelines.

2. There is a “Response Sheet” that students will use to address any concerns about the application and suggest revisions that need to be made prior to approval. This is the part that students submit for evaluation. The response sheet will guide them through the IRB application question by question and prompt them to respond to each section of the application. For each section, students are instructed to specify any potential problems, if any, and make suggestions for revision. The students do not need to re-write the application. Their assignment is to point out areas of concern and suggest improvements to the application.

3. There is also a “Model IRB Application” that demonstrates how research can be done in an ethical way. Students should rely on this model application as a resource for completing the assignment.

Put students into small groups and explain to them that they will serve as an IRB review board and must review an application for approval. Hand out all the materials and address any questions or concerns that students may have about the activity. Students should return the “Response Sheet” to you for evaluation. In total, the activity takes approximately 1 hour to complete. The materials may be modified to fit specific IRB applications at other institutions.
Institutional Review Board
Application for Review of Human Subjects Research

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

1. Principal Researcher’s Contact Information:
   Name: Dr. Dono Research  
   Phone Number: 732-555-5555
   E-mail Address: dono@monmouth.edu

2. Co-Researcher(s) Contact Information:
   Name(s): NA  
   Phone Number: NA
   E-mail Address: NA

3. Department/School: Psychology Department

4. Research Category: (Please mark an X in the appropriate box)
   [X] Faculty research  
   [ ] Undergraduate student research
   [ ] Graduate student research  
   [ ] Honors thesis
   [ ] Senior Thesis  
   [ ] Research from another institution
   [ ] Undergraduate independent study  
   [ ] Other, please specify:

3. Title of the Study: Social Exclusion and Pro-social Behavior

RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose of the Study:
   The purpose of the current study is to investigate the impact social exclusion may have on helping behavior.

2. Rationale for the Study:
   Social exclusion is something that happens to everyone and therefore is important to study. In particular I want to study whether social exclusion makes people be less helpful. Also, no one has studied anything like this before.

3. Research Question or Hypothesis(es):
   It is predicted that social exclusion will relate to helping.

4. Research Design:
   Social exclusion and helping are the two elements of the research design.

5. Describe in Detail the Data Collection Procedure:
   Data collection will be done on an individual basis. The researcher will go to the residence hall where all the residents will be present for a mandatory meeting. To be sure everyone is there, the researcher will arrange to have a list of all the residents' names. At the meeting, residents will first complete a demographic questionnaire. Several “dorm life” items ask things like which other residents they have complaints about, who they could kick out of the hall if given the chance, who is the dumbest resident, who is the ugliest
resident, etc. Afterward the residents will be told to sign the consent form. The resident assistants (RAs) and hall director will make sure the residents have filled out the form.

Next, the researcher will give the residents a cover story to hide the true nature of the experiment. Residents will be given a questionnaire about the facilities on campus. The questionnaire will include items such as the number of fire extinguishers, doors, bathrooms, computers, stairs etc. in their assigned area of the building (questions that necessitate being in the building). Participants will be individually assigned to unique areas around campus and told to return immediately to the residence hall with the completed questionnaire. A confederate will be waiting outside the participant’s residence hall to stop the participant before entering the building. He/she will ask the participant his or her name to confirm it’s the participant. The confederate will then identify him/herself as the “head of conflict resolution committee” for the campus.

The confederate will inform those in the experimental condition that the fellow students in the residence hall have reported the most complaints about him/her, that the fellow residents listed him/her as most ugly, dumb, and the person they most wanted kicked out. The confederate will also inform the participant that the hall had a recent meeting about the him/her and the general consensus was that he/she was not liked by anyone in the building. In addition, the participant will be told that the sentiment was so strong that they were getting kicked out and that all of their belongings could be picked up in the Residence Life office in another building. The participant will be told to head to that building to get pick up their belongings.

Participants in the control condition will be told by the confederate that a number of people in the student’s residence hall have praised him/her and that the hall has a recent meeting about him/her and the general consensus was that he/she was liked by everyone in the building. The participant will be told that they are winning a “community citizen award” for being the best liked person in the hall and that he/she should go to the Residence Life office to get the award.

On the way to the Residence Life office, the participant will pass a table set up right outside the building with a sign and a clearly labeled glass donation jar attended to by another confederate. The confederate will tell the passing student that he/she is taking up a collection to fund students that need help buying books and ask the student to contribute anything he/she could spare to the fund. The confederate will take note on whether the participant donates and the amount of the donation, if applicable or if the participant gets physically aggressive (i.e. breaking the jar, punching a wall, getting in fight, etc.) since it is possible exclusion might make some people violent. If the participant goes to the Residence Life office, he/she will be debriefed about the study.

6. Plan for Data Analysis:
I will use Excel to analyze the data.

SAMPLING METHOD AND PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:
1. What sampling method will be utilized?
I will get the entire population of residence hall students since everyone will be required to participate.

2. Affiliation of Participants:
Participants will be Monmouth University students that live in residence halls.
3. Participant Characteristics - Provide required narrative:
Participants will be Monmouth University students that live in residence. If someone seems too happy or fun loving they won’t be included.

4. What is the population from which you will select participants for the study?
Please mark an X in all appropriate box(es)

[X] MU Students  [ ] Non-English Speaking Persons
[ ] MU Employees  [ ] Physically Disabled
[ ] General Public  [ ] Mentally Disabled
[ ] Pregnant Women  [ ] Prisoners
[ ] Children  [ ] Economically Disadvantaged
[ ] Institutionalized Persons  [ ] Educationally Disadvantaged
[ ] Critically or Terminally Ill  [ ] Elderly
[ ] Other ____________________

Specify

5. How will you recruit or select subjects, how will you gain access to them?

[ ] Flyers/Posters  [ ] Telephone
[ ] Letter  [ ] Internet
[ ] E-mail  [ ] Newspaper
[ ] Radio  [X] Other I will personally select them and notify them to participate

Specify

6. Will you advertise for participants or volunteers?

[ ] Yes  [X] No

7. What are the participants expected to do?
They will be expected to do whatever they are directed to do by the researcher.

8. Length of Time Required from Participants:
The study will take as long as necessary, therefore the time for data collection will vary.

9. Setting for Data Collection:
It will take place in residence halls.

10. Timeline for the Study:
Expected Start Date: upon date of approval
Expected Completion Date: one year after the approval date

**INFORMED CONSENT/ASSENT PROCEDURES:**
Please mark an X in the appropriate box(es)

1. Will this study seek consent from participants?

[X] Yes  [ ] No
2. What type of document(s) will be used to obtain consent?
   [X] Signed consent form
   [ ] Parental Consent Form
   [ ] Letter of Consent
   [ ] Child Assent
   [ ] Other____________________

3. Is there any reason why consent will not be sought? Explain why and what procedure you will use to ensure the participant’s understanding in order to guarantee his or her rights.
   [ ] Yes [X] No, please explain

   Everyone will be forced to fill it out.

G. INSTRUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRES AND QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

1. Which of the following will be used to collect data:
   [X] Instrument(s)
   [ ] Sociodemographic Questionnaire(s)
   [ ] Focus Group Discussions
   [ ] Interview(s)
   [ ] Field notes
   [ ] Other________________________

   Specify

2. Provide the name of any instrument(s) being used and a citation/reference:
   a. Demographic Questionnaire
   b. Residence Hall Facility Questionnaire

3. For qualitative studies, what will you be asking participants?

   Not applicable, this research is not qualitative.

4. Feedback: What information will be provided to participants concerning their test results?

   No feedback will be given.

5. If conducting an experiment, please describe in detail the manipulation being used.

   I will be measuring the amount of helping given in the form of money donated to the student fund.

DATA COLLECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Please indicate if you will use any/all of the following:
   [ ] Audio recording
   [ ] Video recording
   [X] N/A
   [ ] Other__________________

   Specify

2. What procedure(s) will you use to ensure confidentiality of the data?

   I will not tell participants about their individual results.
3. Will identification numbers be assigned to each participant and used on data collection forms to protect the participant(s) responses?
   [ ] Yes  [X] No

   If Yes, who will assign the identification numbers? ____________

4. Who will have access to the list that identifies participants and the assigned identification numbers?
   A list of participants will only be available to those affiliated with the research. Participants will be identified in the data set by first initial and last name to preserve anonymity.

5. Where, how and how long will the data from the study be stored?
   Data will be kept for a week or so.

**RISKS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

1. Immediate Risks:
   There are no risks from this study. Everyone has experiences social exclusion and it is not a big deal.

2. Long-Range Risks:
   None

3. If there are immediate or long-term risks to the participant, how will you mitigate these risks?
   There are none expected.

**BENEFITS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

1. Describe any benefits participants may receive as part of volunteering in your study.
   There are no benefits to participants for volunteering in this study, but the study may benefit from receiving donations.

2. Will participants be compensated for their time? [ ] Yes (please explain)  [ X ] No

**DECEPTION**  If no deception will be used, Please mark an X and skip to section L. [ ]

1. Will you be utilizing deception?  [X] Yes  [ ] No

2. What is the nature of the deception involved?
   The cover story.

3. Why is this deception necessary?
   The deceitful cover story is necessary to conceal the true nature of the experiment. The study would be invalid without a nature reaction to social exclusion, so the cover story is necessary.

4. If deception is employed, describe the procedure you will use to debrief your subjects?
   Some participants will be debriefed orally at the Residence Hall office. Please see the debriefing script for more details.

**DEBRIEFING**
1. Will you debrief participants?  [X] Yes  [ ] No

2. How will debriefing take place?

Some participants will be debriefed orally. See the debriefing script.

**Debriefing Script:**

*To be read to each participant after their participation has ended.*

First of all, I’d like to apologize for being misleading about what was going on in the study. The study was not about the residence hall facilities. It was about helping. I wanted to know if you would donate to the student college fund.

I’m sure you don’t have any questions, but I thank you for participating.
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY I.R.B.
INFORMED CONSENT FOR:
Social Exclusion and Pro-social Behavior

Researcher’s Name: Dr. Dono Research
E-mail address: dono@monmouth.edu
Researcher’s Phone Number: 732-555-5555

I am engaged in a research study of psychology. The purpose of this research is: learn about people. To help gain further insights into this topic, I will ask you to:

complete several activities

This study has no risks or benefits to you.

You can ask questions about the research study or about being a participant at any time or by calling me at home, 732-555-5555 or via e-mail at dono@monmouth.edu

Signing your name below indicates that you have read and understand the contents of this Consent Form and that you agree to participate in this study.

Consent
I have read the above information and I consent to participation in this research endeavor.

________________________________________
Participant’s Signature

________________________________________
Printed Name

________________________________________
Date
Determining the Ethical Conduct of Psychological Research

Instructions: Your group will serve as the university Institutional Review Board (IRB) and review a research proposal. The goal is to determine whether the proposed study meets the ethical guidelines of the IRB and may be conducted at your university. To complete this assignment, carefully review the proposal. For each section, specify any potential problems, if any, and make suggestions for revision. You do not need to re-write this proposal just point out areas of concern and how to improve the application in the spaces provided. An approved proposal is provided for reference.

RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose of the Study:

2. Rationale for the Study:

3. Research Question or Hypothesis(es):

4. Research Design:

5. Describe in Detail the Data Collection Procedure:

6. Plan for Data Analysis:

SAMPLING METHOD AND PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:
1. What sampling method will be utilized?

2. Affiliation of Participants:

3. Participant Characteristics - Provide required narrative:

7. What are the participants expected to do?

8. Length of Time Required from Participants:

9. Setting for Data Collection:

**INFORMED CONSENT/ASSENT PROCEDURES:**
Please mark an X in the appropriate box(es)

1. Will this study seek consent from participants?
   [ ] Yes   [ ] No

2. What type of document(s) will be used to obtain consent?
   [ ] Signed consent form   [ ] Parental Consent Form
   [ ] Letter of Consent   [ ] Child Assent
3. Is there any reason why consent will not be sought? Explain why and what procedure you will use to ensure the participant understands in order to guarantee his or her rights.
   [ ] Yes, please explain  [ ] No

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**INSTRUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRES AND QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION**

1. Which of the following will be used to collect data:
   [ ] Instrument(s)
   [ ] Sociodemographic Questionnaire(s)
   [ ] Focus Group Discussions
   [ ] Interview(s)
   [ ] Field notes
   [ ] Other___________________

   Specify

2. Provide the name of any instrument(s) being used and a citation/reference:

   

3. For qualitative studies, what will you be asking participants?

   

4. Feedback: What information will be provided to participants concerning their test results?

   

5. If conducting an experiment, please describe in detail the manipulation being used.

   

DATA COLLECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Please indicate if you will use any/all of the following:
   [ ] Audio recording
   [ ] Video recording  [ ] Other ________________
   [ ] N/A  Specify

2. What procedure(s) will you use to ensure confidentiality of the data?

3. Will identification numbers be assigned to each participant and used on data collection forms to protect the participant(s) responses?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

   If Yes, who will assign the identification numbers? ______________________________

4. Who will have access to the list that identifies participants and the assigned identification numbers?

5. Where, how and how long will the data from the study be stored?

RISKS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

1. Immediate Risks:

2. Long-Range Risks:

3. If there are immediate or long-term risks to the participant, how will you mitigate these risks?
BENEFITS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

1. Describe any benefits participants may receive as part of volunteering in your study.

2. Will participants be compensated for their time? [ ] Yes (please explain) [ ] No

DECEPTION  If no deception will be used, Please mark an X and skip to section L. [ ]

1. Will you be utilizing deception? [ ] Yes [ ] No

2. What is the nature of the deception involved?

3. Why is this deception necessary?

4. If deception is employed, describe the procedure you will use to debrief your subjects?
DEBRIEFING

1. Will you debrief participants?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

2. How will debriefing take place?

Final Decision
Do the potential benefits exceed the potential costs of participating in this research? Explain.

Make a decision about the IRB application under review:

[ ] Not Approved: [ ] Approved
**Identifying Information**

1. Principal Researcher’s Contact Information:
   Name: Dr. John Doe  
   Address: Edison 129  
   Phone Number: 732-555-5555  
   E-mail Address: jdoe@monmouth.edu

2. Co-Researcher(s) Contact Information:
   Name(s): NA  
   Address: NA  
   Phone Number: NA  
   E-mail Address: NA

3. Department/School: Psychology Department

4. Research Category: (Please mark an X in the appropriate box)
   [X] Faculty research  
   [ ] Undergraduate student research  
   [ ] Graduate student research  
   [ ] Honors thesis  
   [ ] Senior Thesis  
   [ ] Research from another institution  
   [ ] Undergraduate independent study  
   [ ] Other, please specify:

3. Title of the Study: Social Exclusion and Self-control

**Research Project Description**

1. Purpose of the Study:
   The purpose of the current study is to investigate the impact social rejection may have on an individual’s ability to engage in self-control.

2. Rationale for the Study:
   Human beings rely on group life for their health, well-being, comfort, and other positive outcomes. Being accepted into a social group is therefore an almost indispensable goal of human striving. Obtaining such acceptance is however a long and difficult task that may entail years of learning how to behave in socially acceptable ways, acquiring marketable skills, cultivating good relationships, and building a favorable reputation. To succeed at those endeavors, people must have an effective capacity for altering their behavior so as to conform to externally (socially) defined standards. That capacity is often defined as self-regulation. It is therefore plausible that one of the overarching purposes of self-regulation is to secure acceptance by others.

   If self-regulation exists partly for the sake of securing and maintaining social acceptance, then social rejection may affect it. People might respond to social exclusion with either an improvement or an impairment of self-regulation, however previous empirical findings led us to anticipate impairments in self-control. Multiple studies have shown that being accepted versus rejected by social groups has a wide range of effects on individuals. Health, happiness, and well-being are strongly tied to whether one is accepted or rejected (Cacioppo, Hawkley, & Berntson, 2003; Myers, 1992; Lynch, 1978). Ostracized individuals exhibit a broad range of distress and pathology (Williams, 2002). Rejected people...
are more likely than the others to behave aggressively (Buckley et al., in press; Twenge et al., 2001). They are less likely
to act in prosocial ways such as cooperating with someone or providing help (Twenge, Ciarocco, et al., 2003). They
exhibit an assortment of cognitive deficits, such as impaired logical reasoning (Baumeister, Twenge, & Nuss, 2002). They
show distorted time perception, an emphasis on the present rather than the future, a seemingly lethargic passivity, and
an avoidance of self-awareness (Twenge, Catanese, & Baumeister, 2003). They also exhibit self-destructive tendencies,
as indicated by a various increases in self-defeating behaviors such as foolish risk-taking and unhealthy choices (Twenge
et al., 2002).

Self-regulation, defined as the capacity to control or alter one’s responses, is a vital mechanism for producing
adaptive and socially desirable behavior. If rejection could be shown to impair or undermine self-regulation, then a
broad range of socially undesirable behaviors might ensue — consistent with what has already been found regarding the
behavior of rejected individuals.

3. Research Question or Hypothesis(es):

It is predicted that social exclusion will impact the ability to exert self-control. Those that receive the personality
feedback telling them they will be alone later in life, will not persist as long on an unsolvable puzzle as long as those that
receive other types of feedback (i.e. acceptance, accident prone, or no feedback).

4. Research Design:

The study is a multiple-group design. The independent variable will type of feedback received. Participants will be given
one of four types of feedback, including social exclusion, social acceptance, accident prone, or a no feedback control.
Please see the procedure section for further details. The dependent variable will be persistence on an unsolvable task.

5. Describe in Detail the Data Collection Procedure:

Data collection will be done on an individual basis. Participants will be greeted by the experimenter and given the
consent form to read and sign if they choose to participate. The participants will complete the Eyseneck Personality
Questionnaire (Eyseneck & Eyseneck, 1975). Participants will be given randomly assigned false feedback on the results.

In the high belongingness condition, they will be told, “I’ve seen your type of personality before — you’re the
type who has rewarding relationships throughout life. You’re likely to have a long and stable marriage and have
friendships that will last into your later years. The odds are that you’ll always have friends and people who care about
you.”

In the low belongingness condition, they will be told, “I’ve seen your type of personality before — you’re the
type who will end up alone later in life. You may have a lot of friends and relationships now, but by your 40s most of
these will have drifted away. You may even marry or have several marriages, but these are likely to be short-lived and
not continue into your 40s. Relationships don’t last, and when you’re past the age where people are constantly forming
new relationships, the odds are you’ll end up being alone more and more.”

The third condition will be a negative affect control group. These participants will be told, “I’ve seen your type of
personality before. You’re likely to be accident prone later in life — you might break an arm or a leg a few times, or
maybe be injured in car accidents. Even if you haven’t been accident prone before, these things will show up later in life,
and the odds are you will have a lot of accidents.” The final condition will be a control condition. These participants will
be given no feedback about their personality test.
All participants will be asked to fill out the Brief Mood Introspection Scale (BMIS), a measure of mood. Afterward, participants will be asked to work a several puzzles. The puzzles consist of tracing the entire figure without raising your pencil. Some of these puzzles will be solvable and some will not. The experimenter will make this task seem like an important one, so they will want to do their best on it. Participants will be given as much time as they like to work on the puzzles. The experimenter will record the number of attempts the participant makes on each puzzles and the overall amount of time the participant spends working on the puzzles. Participants will then be asked to complete a follow-up questionnaire. Afterward participants will be fully debriefed and thanked for their participation. The participants will be orally debriefed at the end of the experiment, before leaving the lab. They will be asked several times throughout debriefing if they have any questions. They will have a clear understanding of the study design, deception, and reason for deception.

6. Plan for Data Analysis:

Both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis will be utilized on the data collected. A one-way ANOVA will be used to address the hypothesis.

**SAMPLING METHOD AND PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. What sampling method will be utilized?

Participants will self-select this study from every other psychological experiments being conducted during the semester. All participants will be students within the Monmouth University community who are part of the psychology subject pool (Sona system) and at least 18 years of age. No one that meets these requirements and signs consent will be excluded from the study.

2. Affiliation of Participants:

Participants will be Monmouth University students that are enrolled in the psychology participant pool for the semester.

3. Participant Characteristics - Provide required narrative:

Data collection on approximately 60 participants is expected. The participants will be required to be Monmouth University students 18 years of age or older that are included in the psychology department subject pool (available on the online Sona system). The sample will not include any special populations. There are no restrictions on race or gender.

4. What is the population from which you will select participants for the study? Please mark an X in all appropriate box(es)

[X] MU Students   [ ] Non-English Speaking Persons
[ ] MU Employees   [ ] Physically Disabled
5. How will you recruit or select subjects, how will you gain access to them?
   [ ] Flyers/Posters [ ] Telephone
   [ ] Letter [ ] Internet
   [ ] E-mail [ ] Newspaper
   [ ] Radio [X] Other __Sona System; online participant pool__
   Specify

6. Will you advertise for participants or volunteers?
   [ ] Yes [X] No

7. What are the participants expected to do?

   After informed consent is given, participants are expected to fill out a personality questionnaire, listen to feedback on the questionnaire, fill out a measure of mood, work on a puzzle-tracing task, and fill out a follow-up questionnaire. It is also expected that participants will participate in debriefing. The study will happen in a single session and take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Participants may leave or discontinue the study at anytime during their participation without penalty of any kind.

8. Length of Time Required from Participants:

   Data will be collected during a single experimental session which will take approximately 30 minutes.

9. Setting for Data Collection:

   Data will be collected in a psychological laboratory in the basement of Edison Hall on the Monmouth University campus.

10. Timeline for the Study:
    Expected Start Date: upon date of approval
    Expected Completion Date: one year after the approval date

11. Does this research involve the IRB approval of one or more participating institutions or organizations other than that of Monmouth University? [ ] Yes [X] No

12. Contact Person: NA
    Name: NA       Telephone: NA
    Address: NA     Email Address: NA
INFORMED CONSENT/ASSENT PROCEDURES:
Please mark an X in the appropriate box(es)

1. Will this study seek consent from participants?
   [X] Yes [ ] No

2. What type of document(s) will be used to obtain consent?
   [X] Signed consent form [ ] Parental Consent Form
   [ ] Letter of Consent [ ] Child Assent
   [ ] Other___________________

3. Is there any reason why consent will not be sought?  Explain why and what procedure you will use to ensure the participant’s understanding in order to guarantee his or her rights.
   [ ] Yes [X] No, please explain
   There is no reason that written consent will not be sought.

INSTRUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRES AND QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

1. Which of the following will be used to collect data:
   [X] Instrument(s)
   [ ] Sociodemographic Questionnaire(s)
   [ ] Focus Group Discussions
   [ ] Interview(s)
   [ ] Field notes
   [ ] Other___________________

2. Provide the name of any instrument(s) being used and a citation/reference:
   a. Eyseneck Personality Questionnaire (Eyseneck & Eyseneck, 1975)
   b. Brief Mood Introspection Scale (Mayer & Gaschke, 1988)
   c. Follow-up Questionnaire designed for this study

3. For qualitative studies, what will you be asking participants?
   Not applicable, this research is not qualitative.

4. Feedback: What information will be provided to participants concerning their test results?
   Participant will be given false feedback based on the scoring of the personality questionnaire. The deception will be revealed and justified in the debriefing.

5. If conducting an experiment, please describe in detail the manipulation being used.
Participants will be given false-feedback based on their answers to a personality questionnaire to manipulate feelings of belongingness. The feedback will serve as the manipulation (independent variable) in this study. See “Data Collection Procedure” above for more details.

**DATA COLLECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

1. Please indicate if you will use any/all of the following:
   - [ ] Audio recording
   - [ ] Video recording
   - [ ] Other ______________________
   - [X] N/A Specify

2. What procedure(s) will you use to ensure confidentiality of the data?

   Strict confidentiality will be maintained. To protect anonymity, numbers will be assigned to participants. All information gathered will be retained, and participants’ names, which will only appear on the consent forms, will be kept separate from the data files. There will be no way to link consent forms to data collected. The data will be used for statistical analysis, not for individualistic discussion. They will be kept in a locked laboratory, and only researchers will have access to the records.

3. Will identification numbers be assigned to each participant and used on data collection forms to protect the participant(s) responses?
   - [X] Yes  [ ] No

   If Yes, who will assign the identification numbers? **The researcher collecting the data**

4. Who will have access to the list that identifies participants and the assigned identification numbers?

   There will be no record to indicate which participants correspond to the data identification numbers. There will be no way to connect identification numbers with a particular participant as consent forms will not be numbered and will be kept separate from data files.

5. Where, how and how long will the data from the study be stored?

   Data will be kept three years after completion of the research and/or any pending publications are published.
**RISKS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

1. **Immediate Risks:**

There are no immediate risks anticipated from participating in this research. Rejection is not uncommon in daily life. The goal of this study is to determine if a break down in self-control is a potential result of social exclusion. Therefore, some participants must be given a form of rejection during the study. Some participants will be falsely told that their true personality type is linked to being alone later in life. The belief in this belongingness feedback may cause some participants to feel some mental discomfort. Any mental stress associated with this feedback should be minimal and short in duration. During debriefing it will be made clear to participants that the belongingness feedback was completely fabricated, and that their personality type has no association with their future relationships with others.

2. **Long-Range Risks:**

There are no long range risks anticipated from participating in this research.

3. **If there are immediate or long-term risks to the participant, how will you mitigate these risks?**

There is minimal risk involved in participation. There are no discomforts, inconveniences, or anticipated risks to participants that go beyond those of daily life.

**J. BENEFITS TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

1. **Describe any benefits participants may receive as part of volunteering in your study.**

Benefits may include getting a “hands on” look at how psychological research is conducted, and how theory is applied to lab research. Participants may also have the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to a better understanding of psychology.

Benefits to the psychological community may include a better understanding of the implications of social rejection. This knowledge is vital to helping those subjected to social exclusion deal with such rejection.

2. **Will participants be compensated for their time? [X] Yes (please explain) [ ] No**

The experimental session should last approximately 30 minutes, therefore, participants will earn 1 credit for participation in the study. The credit for participation in the experiment will count toward the research involvement that some psychology students are required to complete. In the unlikely event they study takes longer than anticipated, participants will be compensated accordingly. If the participant arrives for the study and reads the consent form, he or she will be entitled to receive credit for research participation. The participant can refuse to participate in the study at that time without penalty. In addition, the participant may leave or discontinue the study at anytime during their participation without penalty of any kind.
DECEPTION  If no deception will be used, Please mark an X and skip to section L.

1. Will you be utilizing deception?  [X] Yes  [ ] No

2. What is the nature of the deception involved?

It is necessary in this study for a minimal amount of deception to be used. First, a cover story must be used to conceal the true nature of the experiment. Second, the participants will be led to believe false feedback based on a personality questionnaire (the false belongingness manipulations). This deception will last as long as the single experimental session will last, and will be fully explained to the participant during debriefing.

3. Why is this deception necessary?

Cover story deception: The goal of this study is to see how people respond to feeling like they do not belong. It is important that we get a natural performance, not one that the participant feels is expected. If participants were to know the true reasoning and hypothesis behind the study they may perform in an unnatural way, by trying to live up to the experimenters perceived expectations. To eliminate this problem it is necessary for the experimenter to tell the participant a cover story for the experiment. Participants will be led to believe that the experiment is looking at a different area of psychology than it actually is. While the types and numbers of the tasks in the study will be truthful and unchanging (as is appears in the procedure section of the consent form- see consent form), the reasoning for them to participate in each task will be altered.

False belongingness manipulation: Rejection is not uncommon in daily life. The goal of our study is to determine if rejection has depleting effects on people. That is, will it deplete a central source of energy leaving little to none for future activities? Therefore, some participants must be given a form of rejection during the study. Some participants will be falsely told that their true personality type is linked to being alone later in life. The belief in this belongingness feedback may cause some participants to feel some mental stress. Any mental stress associated with this feedback should be minimal and short in duration. During debriefing it will be made clear to participants that the belongingness feedback was completely fabricated, and that their personality type has no association with their future relationships with others.

4. If deception is employed, describe the procedure you will use to debrief your subjects?

Participants will be debriefed orally to each participant before they are released from the study. Please see the debriefing script for more details. All their questions and concerns will be addressed before they leave the laboratory.

DEBRIEFING

1. Will you debrief participants?  [X] Yes  [ ] No

2. How will debriefing take place?

The participants will be orally debriefed at the end of the experiment, before leaving the lab. They will be asked several times throughout debriefing if they have any questions. They will have a clear understanding of the study design, deception, and reason for deception.
**Debriefing Script:**

To be read to each participant after their participation has ended.

First of all, I’d like to apologize for being misleading about what was going on in the study. What we are actually studying is the behavior of people who are made to feel lonely or rejected. I had to give you a cover story for the experiment, so that you would act more naturally in the study. If you knew what we were looking at in the study you might have acted differently.

When I told you would be alone later in life (or would be accident prone,) that was not true. You were randomly assigned to one of four types of feedback. The feedback you received has nothing to do with your personality. It was random. {TELL ABOUT ASSIGNED CONDITION}. Other people were told {TELL ABOUT OTHER CONDITIONS......}. Do you have any questions at this time?

We are trying to find out if people who are feeling rejected or lonely will more or less likely to persist or put effort into a difficult task. We led you to believe that the puzzle-solving task was important. What we were looking at is whether you would be willing to keep working on the puzzles. We monitored the amount of time you were willing to work and the number of times you tried a certain puzzle. We predict that people who are led to believe that they will be alone later in life will not be as likely to persist. Do you have any question?

I thank you so much for coming a participating in the study. I really appreciate it. Please try not to talk about the study with others. It is very important that everyone act naturally in this study, which may not happen if people know what to expect. If you don’t have any questions, then you are all finished. Thanks again.
I am engaged in a research study of how personality relates to performance. The purpose of this research is: to learn how people perform based on different personality types. To help gain further insights into this topic, I will ask you to:

Participant in consent, fill out a personality questionnaire, work on a puzzle and participate in debriefing. The entirety of the study, if completed, will last approximately 30 minutes.

The data you provide will be recorded anonymously and your participation and anything you say during the session will be held in the strictest confidence. By University regulations, this informed consent statement will be filed separately from your response, so no one will know that the answers/responses you provide are yours. The study involves no foreseeable risks or harm to you beyond those of everyday life. This study may benefit you by getting a “hands on” look at how psychological research is conducted, and how theory is applied to lab research. You may also have the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to a better understanding of psychology.

You can ask questions about the research study or about being a participant at any time or by calling me at 732-555-5555 or via e-mail at jdoe@monmouth.edu. In addition, for any research questions, please contact Deborah Smith of the Monmouth University Institutional Review Board (IRB) by phone at (732) 555-5555 or via e-mail at irb@monmouth.edu.

Your participation in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw at anytime. You may refuse or discontinue participation at any time without consequence or prejudice.

If your participation in this research has caused you to feel uncomfortable in any way, or if our research prompted you to consider personal matters about which you are concerned, we encourage you to take advantage of the confidential counseling services offered at Monmouth University. You can contact a counselor at the Life Career and Advising Center (LCAC) at 732-555-5555.

Signing your name below indicates that you have read and understand the contents of this Consent Form and that you agree to participate in this study.

Consent
I am 18 years of age or older and have read the above information and I fully understand the nature of my participation. I understand that my involvement in this study will be confidential, and that if a summary of the results is used for educational or publication purposes, my individual results will not be identified. I also understand that I have the right to terminate my participation at any time during the study. Lastly, I understand the risks of participating in the study, including the self-consciousness I may feel while participating.

Participant's Signature ____________________________________________

Researcher's signature ____________________________________________

Printed Name ____________________________________________________

Printed Name ____________________________________________________

Date ____________________________________________________________

Date ____________________________________________________________

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