

Extra credit assignment:

Improve the Textbook!

A lot of good research never makes it into a textbook, even though it's relevant to one of the topics covered in the text.

Here's how you can help to improve the textbook, improve your knowledge, and improve your grade by 4 or 8 points:

- (1) Identify a major topic covered in the textbook. For example, "Reasoning about Time" (Chapter 8) or "The Use of Cognitive Strategies to Control Negative Emotion" (Chapter 10) are major topics. (*Hint*: when they're mentioned in your text, major topics are printed in dark blue.)
- (2) Find three closely related research articles on your chosen topic. How do you know if they're "closely related"? At the very least, closely related articles cite one another. For example, both Paper B and Paper C cite Paper A, and Paper B and Paper C cite an article that is cited in Paper A.
- (3) Describe what each of these three articles tell us about the chosen topic.
- (4) Tell me one thing you'd like to know about the topic you chose, but was not covered in the textbook or the three articles you chose.

Easy, right? Not so fast. Here are the rules:

1. The article must report an *experiment* (see pp. 31-33 if you're not sure what that is).
2. The article can't already be mentioned in the section you're writing about (e.g., in "Reasoning about Time", the authors already mention an article by Acredolo & Smith, so that particular article is out-of-bounds).
3. The article must have been published in the list of Opfer-Approved Journals (see below). If you believe that you've found The Perfect Experiment, but it's published in an unapproved journal, let me know, and I'll consider granting a special dispensation. Just so you know, some random thing you found on the web (like a blog) or an article from a popular magazine (like *Newsweek*) **definitely** doesn't count, so don't bother asking about it.

So what are you supposed to turn in? Here's what—

- The name of the topic you've chosen, and where it appears in the textbook (page numbers).
- A 2–3 page summary of the experiments. Briefly describe how the experiments are related to the topic you've chosen, what happened in the experiments, what the major findings were, and how these findings modify or extend what the textbook tells us about the topic.
- One or two paragraphs describing what you would like to know about the topic you've chosen but could not find in the textbook or your three articles.
- Full bibliographic information on the three articles (in APA Style), with a photocopy of each article.

The assignment is graded pass (4 points)/fail (0 points). You can do up to two of these papers for a total of 8 points added to your lowest test score. **Papers are due on the last day of class.** Late papers will not be accepted for any reason.

Opfer-Approved Journals

Behavioral Neuroscience
Child Development
Cognition
Cognition and Emotion
Cognition and Instruction
Cognitive Development
Cognitive Psychology
Cognitive Science
Developmental Psychology
Developmental Science
Emotion
Health Psychology
Journal of Abnormal Psychology
Journal of Comparative Psychology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Journal of Neuroscience
Journal of Personality
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Psychological Methods
Psychological Science
Psychology and Aging
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review