



Overview: As the final project for this course, you will be creating a **hypothetical study**. You are not and should not be conducting human subject research for this project. It is not necessary for the purposes of this assignment. All human subject research requires written approval from the AU Institutional Review Board in order to protect the welfare and ensure ethical treatment of the subjects. This assessment will help you recognize the value of research in psychology and the value of supporting your claims with established views and research.

For this Milestone 4 assignment, the following critical elements must be addressed:

- I. You will create the Discussion section of your hypothetical study. This assignment is going to allow you to discuss the ethics, limitations, validity, additional research questions and possible practical applications and your conclusion section of your hypothetical study.

- II. The validity section is unique to this milestone as most proposals and journal articles do not have a section outlining threats to validity. It is being asked of you as a way to practice this knowledge. You **MUST** select two general types of validity from the list below and then select at least one concept from within each type of validity you have chosen.

A. Internal Validity

1. Maturation
2. History
3. Attrition
4. Testing
5. Instrumentation
6. Selection

B. Construct Validity

1. Inadequate explanation of the construct
2. Attention
3. Experimenter expectancies
4. Cues from the experiment
5. Reactivity to the experiment
6. Reliability/validity of the measures being used

C. External Validity

1. Holds for some individuals, but not other individuals
2. Holds for some outcomes, but not other outcomes
3. Holds for some settings, but not other settings
4. Holds for some variations of the treatment, but not other variations

III. **Next, make sure you include the following essential information that pertains to the Discussion section:**

- Assuming that the results of your hypothetical study support your research question, **discuss how your hypothetical findings contribute to the knowledge** of your research question and the problem you were studying. This should include future research questions that are inspired by your hypothetical study as well as possible practical applications for the field.
- Describe the possible **limitations** your study had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used.
- Discuss any **ethical issues** your hypothetical study might have encountered and how it could be resolved in the future.
- Discuss **threats to the validity** of your hypothetical study.
- Provide a short **conclusion** that sums up the essence of the paper (a brief integrative summary).

Guidelines for Submission: You will upload the paper as a Word document to Blackboard for grading and feedback. Your submission for this milestone must follow APA paper guidelines. Your submission should not exceed 2-3 pages (excluding the cover and reference pages). It should include a cover page and reference page, be written with 12-point Times New Roman font and double spacing, and you will follow proper APA citation and reference format.

Any thoughts that are not your own **MUST** be cited in proper APA format. Direct quotes (short and long) **MUST** be cited and formatted following APA guidelines. Even if you paraphrase information, it **MUST** be cited. Papers are being evaluated through SafeAssign. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated. If plagiarism is discovered, it will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment and possible disciplinary action. AU's writing center can assist you if you are unsure. You can also use the following Purdue OWL link: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> to help you with your citations and references and you can avoid plagiarism by also using one of the following plagiarism checking links: <https://papersowl.com/free-plagiarism-checker> , <https://www.grammarly.com/plagiarism-checker> , and <https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/>

Milestone 4: Discussion Section Grading Rubric

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Contribution to knowledge	Discusses how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are discussed in detail	Discusses how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are discussed but description is cursory and/or lacks clarity	Does not discuss how the hypothetical findings contribute to knowledge. Future research questions and practical applications are not discussed	10points
Possible limitations	Explains in detail the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used	Describes the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or is missing a required element	Does not describe the possible limitations the study might have had with regard to the design, the procedure, the subjects, and the measures used	10points
Ethical Issues	Discusses in detail potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how it could be resolved in the future	Discusses potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how it could be resolved in the future but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Does not discuss potential ethical issues the study may have encountered & how it could be resolved in the future	10points
Threat to Validity	Discusses threats to the study's validity in rich detail. Two general types of validity and at least one concept from each category is defined and discussed as it applies to the hypothetical study.	Discusses threats to the study's validity but description is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or required elements are missing	Does not discuss threats to the study's validity at all	10points

Conclusion	Provides a short summative conclusion that reflects the essence of the paper.	Provides a short summative conclusion that reflects the essence of the paper but description is cursory, unclear, or contains inaccuracies	Does not provide a conclusion	10points
Writing Mechanics	Writing is in APA format, easily understood, clear, and concise using proper citation methods where applicable with no errors in citations, references & grammar	Writing is understandable using proper citation methods where applicable with a number of errors in APA format, citations, references, & grammar	Writing is very difficult to understand, does not use proper citation methods where applicable and has significant errors in APA format, references, & grammar	10points
			Total	100% (60points)