

Conducting an Experiment

- **Decide on participants:**
Do you need to randomly sample from a defined population, or will you use volunteers from classes or another source? How will you describe your study to potential volunteers? If using animals, how will they be obtained and housed?
- **Manipulating the independent variable(s):**
Does your independent variable require an event manipulation, or will you use a more straightforward judgment manipulation? Is your manipulation sufficiently strong to produce a difference between groups?
- **Measuring your dependent variable(s):**
Decide on using a self-report, behavioral, and/or physiological measure. Is the measure reliable and sufficiently sensitive to detect an effect of the independent variable?
- **Debugging the study:**
Have others commented on your proposed procedures? How will you check on the effectiveness of the manipulation? Will you conduct a pilot study?
- **Ethical considerations:**
How will you debrief participants? Will you inform them of the results?
- **Write a report of your study, possibly for publication or presentation at a professional meeting.**