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Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:40 PM

**Comment [1]:** Note the running head up here. The correct APA format is Running head: TITLE. Thus make sure to capitalize the R, have a lower case h, and then your short title all in CAPS (a short title should be no more than 50 characters). This title page also starts on page one, and the page number is flush to the right while the running head is flush to the left

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:17 PM

**Comment [2]:** Do you know how to enter a header? Click on the "Insert" menu at the top of word, click on "Header", and then type in the header whatever you want. There is even a box that you can check that allows you to have a different header on the first page than subsequent pages.

Decision Making: An Individual and Socially Influenced Process

John Doe

Florida International University

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:42 PM

**Comment [3]:** Note the title here as well. It is descriptive of the paper to come, and falls within the 12 words recommended by the APA. The first letter of all words over 4 letters is capitalized (although "An" is also capitalized since it follows the colon)

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:42 PM

**Comment [4]:** Your name goes here

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:42 PM

**Comment [5]:** Your university affiliation goes here

Ryan Winter 11/20/2013 4:32 PM

**Comment [6]:** Note that this example paper is on a different topic than your experiment. It still follows the same guidelines as your assignment, though, so this is a good template to mimic as you write your own paper.

## Method

### Participants

Five hundred and sixty one students from a large metropolitan university in the southeastern U.S. participated in the experimental study. Three hundred and five participants were female (54.4%) and 256 were male (45.6%). They ranged in age from 18 to 45, with a mean age of 22 ( $SD = 3.44$ ). This included 256 Hispanic participants (45%), 223 Caucasian participants (40%), 23 African American participants (4%), and 11 Asian participants (2%). The remaining 48 participants did not report their ethnicity (9%).

### Materials and Procedure

In order to test for conformity, students in the research methods class at FIU gathered information based on the amount of money participants spent on textbooks. After hearing some initial information about what the study entailed (filling out a survey), participants who consented to be in the study were handed a "Book Survey". They received one of three versions of this survey: high, low, or neutral. All surveys contained 20 slots and asked participants to provide their name, their age, and the amount of money they remembered spending on books two semesters prior ("How much did you spend on textbooks during the spring semester, 2012"). On the bottom of each survey was either an "H", "L", or "N". Participants given the "H" version were in the high condition. On this survey, the first 10 participant slots were already filled (ostensibly by other participants, though the researchers had actually filled them out). These artificial book values from imaginary participants fell within a high range between \$500 and \$600. If participants did not recall how much they spent on books, we expected them to refer to those ten prior responses and anchor their own response in accordance with the prior students. For those in the "L" version, they received a book survey where the first ten slots had low ranges

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:55 PM

**Comment [7]:** The word Method here is centered and bolded, as is recommended by the APA

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:55 PM

**Comment [8]:** Participant (also bolded) is flush left

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:56 PM

**Comment [9]:** When a number starts a sentence, spell out the number

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:56 PM

**Comment [10]:** You see the mean and standard deviation here, which is helpful for knowing about the makeup of the sample.

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 7:58 PM

**Comment [11]:** Also bolded and flush left. You will notice that this author combined materials and procedures, which was good for this simple study. He could have separated them, though, and talked about the book survey separately in a "materials" section and the procedure separately in the "procedure" section. I like this choice, though, for this design.

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:00 PM

**Comment [12]:** Notice how thorough the description is here. If you wanted to replicate this study, you would know exactly what to do because the author tells you exactly what he did. Make sure the description of your IV is equally clear.

from \$150 and \$250. Once again, the researchers completed these blanks before getting the participants' to complete the survey. Finally, the book survey for those in the neutral condition ("N") did not have any slots filled with predetermined values. Using this Book Survey set up, researchers approached participants at FIU and had them complete the surveys. The independent variable, therefore, was whether or not participants were in the high, low or neutral condition while the dependent variable was participant responses regarding the amount of money they spent on books (this question was open-ended, and thus it could range from \$0 to an infinite amount of money). We timed how long it took participants to complete the survey and included this as a second dependent variable in the study design. Our main hypothesis was that participants would recall spending more on their own textbooks when they viewed a survey in which prior survey participants recalled spending a lot on books compared a little on books, with our "no exposure to prior participants" condition falling between these two extremes. We also predicted that participants would take longer to complete the survey when there were no prior participants on the survey compared to when there prior names on the survey (high or low).

### Results

We ran a one-way ANOVA with condition as the independent variable and the amount of money participants recalled spending on the books in the fall of 2011 as a dependent variable. There was a main effect for condition,  $F(2, 561) = 33.03, p < .05$ . A significant Tukey post hoc test showed that participants recalled spending more money in the high condition ( $M = \$373, SD = \$24.06$ ) and neutral conditions ( $M = \$352, SD = \$67.87$ ) than in the low condition ( $M = \$249, SD = \$45.54$ ), but there was no significant difference between the high and neutral conditions, confirming our first hypothesis. Apparently, participants do tend to use data from other people as a source of information.

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:00 PM

**Comment [13]:** You can see his procedure, right! Very clear

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:01 PM

**Comment [14]:** Noting the IV helps a lot. You can tell the author knows what his IV is. There is only one, with three levels.

Ryan Winter 1/3/2013 1:37 PM

**Comment [15]:** You also know what his DV is, and you know the range for his scale (In this case, it could be \$0, but the upper range could be anything (although anything above \$1000 would be suspicious, right?)

Ryan Winter 7/21/2014 2:59 PM

**Comment [16]:** Personally, I think this study is a little easier than your study to describe, and it still took over a page and a half. Make sure you have enough detail to convey exactly what you did and how you did it!

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:03 PM

**Comment [17]:** Results is centered and bold

Ryan Winter 11/28/2012 8:05 PM

**Comment [18]:** As you can see, I am not looking for a lot in the results section, which means that the data that is needed must be present. This is a good format for the results, because you know what the IV is, what the DV is, and you see the F test for the one way ANOVA. It also provides the means and standard deviation. Although it gives a little info on the discussion, it does not go into a lot of detail on the discussion. That comes next.

Ryan Winter 11/20/2013 5:00 PM

**Comment [19]:** A discussion section is not required in this paper, so I would like for you to draw a short conclusion for each data analysis. Did the results confirm your predictions? If yes, how?

Due to problems in timing how long it took participants to complete the survey in the low condition, our second analysis focused only on participants in the high money condition and the no prior participant information condition. We ran a  $t$ -Test with the high versus absent conditions as our independent variable and the amount of time in seconds it took for participants to complete the survey as the dependent variable. As predicted, participants spent significantly more time answering the survey question when there were no prior participants ( $M = 6.7$  seconds,  $SD = 2.1$  seconds) than when there were prior participants who recalled spending a lot of money on textbooks ( $M = 3.2$  seconds,  $SD = 1.1$  seconds),  $t(379) = 6.78, p < .001$ . A reasonable explanation for this finding is that it takes longer to recall the amount participants spent on books when they do not have examples from prior participants to look at.

Ryan Winter 11/20/2013 4:59 PM

**Comment [20]:** In this second analysis, you can see that the author ran a  $t$ -Test rather than an ANOVA. This was necessary because he only analyzed two groups; the "high" condition and the "no prior participant" condition. Remember to use a  $t$ -Test for two group designs and an ANOVA when you have more than two groups

For your study, I recommend doing two ANOVAs. This last test is just to show you how it might look if you ran a  $t$ -Test



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