

LHC - Final Project Timeline

1. **Decide on your group** - (due 9/20)
2. **Begin independently researching a topic.** Excellent sources for ideas include introductory Cognition textbooks, papers from the *Trends in Cognitive Science Journal* (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/13646613>), research from faculty in our department that do cognition and perception research (<http://psych.nyu.edu/faculty>), ideas you have about how humans think and behave, personal experience, inspiration, etc...
3. **Meet with me to discuss your project idea** - (this MUST happen before 10/13 at the latest, earlier in case you need to revise your initial idea)
4. **Project proposal** - due 10/25/10
 - i. Each group should submit a 3-page proposal for their research project. The proposal should include three sections:
 1. **Introduction/Background** (3-4 paragraphs) Describe basic research question and the “gap” that you see in previous work. The gap does not have to be something completely novel (like our stroop experiment you can replicate an existing finding you think is interesting). However in the intro/background you are making the pitch on why it would be a good experiment.
 2. **Design** (2-3 paragraphs) Describe the basics of your design. Details can be worked out later, but at a minimum address the following points: how will stimuli be displayed (computer? power point? pen and paper)? how will stimuli be selected? what conditions will there be? how will the conditions differ? is the design within-subjects or between-subjects? what will the dependent measure be? how will you score the dependent measure and enter it into R?
 3. **Timeline and division of labor** (2 paragraphs along with some kind of outline/timeline of work to be completed) Sketch a preliminary timeline for your project all data must be collected and analyzed by Dec. 8th. In addition, you need to budget at least 1-2 weeks for data analysis alone. That puts constraints on when/how you get the experiment design together. In addition, I would like to see how the division of labor is planned for the project. Who will be responsible for what. Details are good since they help make sure everyone fulfills their part of the project.
5. **Mock IRB application (due Nov. 8th)** - to do a project you usually have to get IRB approval. This is an important part of the psychological research process you should be familiar with. We will turn in a mock IRB application to the mock-IRB (me!) that describes your planned experiment and the ethical implications.
6. **Mid project Progress report (2 page, due Nov. 15th)** - summarize where you are in terms of designing stimuli, experimental task, what remains, what problems have arisen

7. Collect pilot data in your design (Nov. 24-Dec1st): Sometime in this time frame you will want to do a “dry run” of your experiment on 1-2 subjects (roommates, friends, or others unaware of the experiment design/purpose). You will turn in a 1 page summary of what happened in the pilot data and if any new issues arose that you will want to correct before the running the final project.

8. Work on project in class with help from Sara and I and collect data (Dec 1st-Dec 13th)

9. Final presentations/Mini conference (Dec. 15th and/or during our final exam time if needed)

- a. Each group will make a short 15 minute presentation on their project and results (12 minutes + 3 for questions). Data collection and analysis must be done by this point.

10. Final paper is due during our scheduled final exam time

- a. One final paper per group, similar length to lab report (6-8 pages, perhaps more). Figures, stats, procedure, the whole deal.