

Brief proposal and hypotheses
(Example, using variables NOT part of the student project)

1. Explain your research idea

This research will explore whether a person displays more positive emotional affect when they see themselves as having a more positive self-image, while there would be less positive emotional affect if the person has a less strong positive self-image. Also to be explored is whether the degree of positive self-image or positive affect differ based upon gender identity.

2. Identify the *three* variables you will use for your research
(see the *Project Overview* for a list of variables that may be used)

- Variable i. Positive affect (as measured using the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule [PANAS])
- Variable ii. Positive self-image (as measured using the How I see Myself questionnaire [HSM])
- Variable iii. Gender identity (as measured through a demographic questionnaire using three categories: *women (cis and trans)*, *men (cis and trans)*, *non-binary* [agender, genderqueer, etc.]

Commented [PWL1]: Notice that the assessment (questionnaire) used to assess this variable is listed here. You should do this for your variables as well.

3. Give each of the three hypotheses you will explore in your research

Hypothesis 1 (comparing variable i & ii): Individuals with stronger *positive self-image* also display stronger *positive emotional affect*.

Hypothesis 2 (comparing variable i & iii): *Positive self-image* is greater for those who self-classify their gender identity as *women (cis and trans)* than for those who self-classify their gender identity as *men (cis and trans)*, or *non-binary*.

Hypothesis 3 (comparing variable ii & iii): *Positive affect* is greater for those who self-classify their gender identity as *non-binary* than for those who self-classify as *men (cis and trans)*, who have a greater *positive affect* than those who self-classify as *women (cis and trans)*.

Commented [PWL2]: Each hypothesis should make a specific prediction about the relationship between each variable pair: does one get higher as the other gets higher? Does one get lower as the other gets higher? Is there no relationship at all?

The hypothesis must be a specific prediction that can be answered with a "true" or "false"

4. Identify at least three peer-reviewed journal articles that will be used as part of the literature review for your research. For each article provide a properly formatted APA reference and explain in a few sentences how each article is relevant to one or more of your hypotheses. Articles should be dated between 2011 and 2021.

Taylor, S. E., & Gollwitzer, P. M. (1995). Effects of mindset on positive illusions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 69(2), 213–226.

Taylor and Gollwitzer (1995) discuss the use of the *How I See Myself* questionnaire and it's use in measuring positive and negative self-image (Variable ii).

Thomsen, L., Sidanius, J., & Fiske, A. P. (2007). Interpersonal leveling, independence, and self-enhancement: A comparison between Denmark and the U.S., and a relational practice framework for cultural psychology. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 37(3), 445–469. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.366>

Thomsen et al. (2007) address emotional expression (affect) and self-image in individuals from two different cultures. While the data addresses two different cultures, it does draw connections between Variables i and ii; suggesting a relationship but not investigating it directly.

Watson, D., Clark, L. A., & Tellegen, A. (1988). Development and validation of brief measures of positive and negative affects: The PANAS scaled. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 54(6), 1063 – 1070.

Watson et al. (1988) directly discuss the development of the PANAS, the scale that will be used to assess the emotional affect of the study participants (Variable i).

Instructor's note: all of the above articles are far older than would be appropriate. Students are expected to use articles no older than 10 years old (2011 – 2021).

Commented [PWL3]: Please note that the references are all in APA format: hanging indent, double-spaced, capitalized and italicized appropriately following the rules set forth in the 7th edition of the *APA Publication Manual*.

You will be expected to provide all references in your project papers using APA formatted style, based upon the 7th edition book. Older editions will not be useful here.

If you did not pick up the *Publication Manual of the APA* (it is a recommended book for this course), you may want to acquire a copy if you intend to take more psychology classes.

An alternate source for accurate information on APA style can be found at the Purdue Online Writing Lab:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html