

## Research Design

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Researchers often prefer to use experimental, rather than correlational designs, to test hypotheses because experiments can be used to demonstrate cause-effect relationships. However, some hypotheses do not lend themselves to experimental study for ethical, practical, or logical reasons (i.e., some important variables, such as age of respondents, cannot be *manipulated*, even though researchers can study participants already differing in age). Moreover, at early stages of the research, purely descriptive or correlational studies may be most appropriate.

**Decide whether an experimental, a descriptive, or a correlational study would be the best (or the only) way to test the hypothesis.**

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### Experimental, Descriptive, or Correlational Design?

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	Experimental	Descriptive	Correlational
Students will learn better in a cool room than in a hot one.			
Students do better on exams with spaced reviews than with last minute cramming.			
The greater the street noise level in an urban area, the more learning disabilities the children growing up in that area will have.			
Individuals who were abused as children are more likely to become abusive in dating relationships.			
Teenage guys are more likely to accompany girls who are shorter than girls who are taller.			
Drinking a cup of coffee before an exam will improve performance.			
Children who live in cities mature faster than children who live in the suburbs.			
It is easier to remember words that rhyme than words that are completely unrelated.			
Girls read better than boys during elementary school.			

*Update 8/18/08*