Lab Assignment #8: False Memory (DRM) Task & Final Project Abstract

For this lab you have two main goals. The first is to complete the "False Memory" experiment in CogLab and answer three questions about it. The second is to write an APA-style Abstract for your final project experiment. Keep in mind that Data Collection Day is Thursday, November 8th, so please make sure you are making progress on the design and implementation of your experiment!

A. Complete the False Memory experiment in CogLab and then answer the following questions (put them in a Word document under the heading "False Memory Expt."

1. Did you show a false memory effect? Answer this question by providing your results from the experiment; that is, give your "percentage of reports" for the Old items, Normal Distractors, & Special Distractors. If you did show a false memory effect, were you surprised that you did so? Why or why not? If you did not show a false memory effect, explain how you were able to avoid it.

2. Provide an example of a real-world (outside of the lab) situation in which a DRM-like effect may occur.

3. Come up with a list of 10 words that you think could create a false memory. Make sure to also provide & identify the word or words (beyond the original 10) that you believe would be falsely remembered. Feel free to get creative in making up your list; that is, your list does not have to revolve around standard categories like those used in the CogLab/DRM experiment, but can come from any walk of life. Do not use lists available online; make up your own!

B. Write an APA-style Abstract for your research project (put it in a Word document, on a separate page, after your False Memory answers). Please read each of the points below before you begin.

- Remember that the goal of an Abstract is to provide a brief (<120 word) overview of your entire experiment. A general guideline is to have 1-2 sentences about (a) the problem investigated (what is the problem/issue? why is it interesting/important/relevant?), (b) the methods used, (c) the results obtained, and (d) the major conclusions & implications of the project.

- Although you will not have results to report at this time, I want you to write your Abstract as if you do. That is, write your Abstract as if your project is completed and you found what you expected to find.

- I strongly encourage you to look at published papers related to your research for examples of how to write a good Abstract. There is also an "APA Format Example" on the course webpage.

- Obviously you will need to revise your Abstract as you learn more about your research area and analyze your actual data. Nevertheless, writing an Abstract is often a good exercise to help you more clearly see what you are doing, how your project might turn out, and what it might mean.

- Put your project's title at the top of the page; then the word "Abstract" centered below it; then your Abstract. All of this should be doubled-spaced, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and the Abstract should be written in the past tense.

> Name your document "Lab8-yourlastname.doc" and send it to Lucas by 5pm this Friday.

> Please use any remaining lab time to make concrete progress on your final project experiment. Things to do include (a) finalizing your design & procedures; (b) finding/creating your materials (stimuli, questionnaires, ppt slides, etc.); (c) writing a running protocol that lists exactly what you're going to do with your participants, say to them, etc.; and (d) test-run your procedure.