

Successfully completing the requirements for the psychology experiments, made it necessary that I attend five different experiments. This is not to say, that the experiments were a burden I was forced to bear. Surprisingly enough, I actually found most of the experiments enjoyable. It was no problem to assist the upper-class students with their research and I am glad that it is a requirement in the department for us to participate.

The first experiment that I participated in occurred on the twenty-ninth of April and was conducted by [REDACTED]. (I am not positive about the last name. I cannot read her writing.) The experiment dealt with justified abuse. We were given a situation and asked to answer the questions pertaining to the situation. Each time, someone was being somewhat verbally or mentally abused. Sometimes the male would be acting forcibly with the female, and sometimes it was the other way around. I was surprised at the thoughts I had while answering the questions. I have always thought that abuse by either male or female is

wrong, but as I was answering the questions I wondered about my perceptions. As I filled out the questions, it was clear to me that I could be being tested for my prejudices. Is it more wrong for a man to hit a woman than it is for a woman to hit a man? This is something I had never really asked myself about before. Although, I knew that the two were both wrong, I felt myself wanting to make excuses for the woman, and I was ashamed of myself.

The experiment lasted for half an hour and was presented very well. I learned a lot from this experiment. I would definitely recommend this experiment to someone else. It presented good questions that everyone should think about at some point.

The second experiment I participated in was conducted by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This was also a painless experience. It lasted for forty-five minutes and dealt with the effects of artistic beauty. The experimenter asked me to view several pictures of good-looking men and then had me complete a questionnaire. The questions dealt with my boyfriend and our relationship. One of the requirements for participating in this study was that I had to have been dating someone for at least six months.

I think that the study may not have been as successful with me as it was designed to be. The men I viewed in the pictures were nice-looking, but they did not interest me at all. If I saw these guys on the street I

would think they were classically attractive, but that's it. I'm sure I would have immediately turned my head away from them. All of the guys were wearing expensive Ralph Lauren jackets and such, and in real life these people would probably disgust me. I do not usually like to be around people who flaunt their money and that's what the men in the pictures seemed to be doing.

The experiment was supposed to see if I viewed my boyfriend differently after viewing the pictures. Of course not. The pictures were not to my liking. I would probably recommend this experiment to a friend, but I would also recommend that the experimenter have more than one type of man for the subjects to lust after. Everyone is not attracted to the same type of men.

The third experiment I participated in questioned my personality and mood. [REDACTED] was in charge of the experiment, and the duration was one hour in length. The experiment was also well done, I suppose, but this was the one experiment I didn't feel comfortable in. [REDACTED] was not as congenial as the other experimenters. Not that it is important, but the atmosphere was definitely tense.

We initially answered some questions about what sort of a mood we were in at that moment. After that, we watched a movie which was promoting environmental care. The movie was well done, and I enjoyed it.

█████ said that he had left his notebook downstairs and while he was gone, a girl in the back started complaining. "That movie was so stupid! I can't believe we had to watch that crap! I almost want to walk out, but I said I'd do this!" The girl next to me, who I know is out to save the world by herself, was immediately offended and let the other girl know so. █████ Something about the protesting girl led me to be suspicious. I've read enough psychology texts to know that people are often planted in experiments to evoke a reaction out of people. I suspected that's what this girl was doing. I just smiled and kept my mouth shut. █████

After a couple seconds, █████ reentered and handed us sheets which had the same questions we had already answered before the video about how we were feeling. We answered them, yet again, and left.

Due to my suspicions, I took my time leaving the room, and sure enough, the girl who had been so upset about the video was the same girl who stayed after and was sharing with █████ a smile of conspiracy. I guess my assumptions were correct. It kind of sucks that their cover was blown with me, but I kept it to myself so the experiment would not be affected.

The experiment was amusing and somewhat enjoyable, and I would recommend it to a friend who is interested in participating.

The fourth experiment I participated in was led by █████ and

dealt with memory. The duration of the study was half an hour. I did not know what to expect. When I arrived I found out that the experiment would consist of us reading an extremely descriptive selection from a gangster-type movie and then answer questions on it to see how much we remembered.

That's really all there was to it. The experiment seemed to have been well prepared and [REDACTED] was friendly and ready to help us with anything. I took my time reading the selection; therefore, I am quite sure that I remembered the correct answers to the majority of the questions. I enjoyed this experiment, since I have always had a fairly good memory. I would also recommend this experiment to a friend.

The last experiment I participated in was horrible. I'm not trying to be mean, but I think that honesty is appropriate here. The study was, once again, on memory. It was led by [REDACTED] and lasted for an hour.

I did not know what to expect. I was hoping that it would be entirely different than the other memory experiment I participated in. It was somewhat different. I don't think the experiment was put together well enough though.

When we first walked in, the experimenter was sitting at the front of the room cutting letters out of construction paper which had nothing to do with the experiment. After it was clear that everyone who was going

to show up had, we still sat there for another 5-10 minutes. The experimenter read to us everything we were to do and started the movie Wayne's World which we were supposed to watch for 15-20 minutes. After the first twenty minutes of the show passed, I became extremely bored and restless, and after a few more minutes, she finally stood to take the video out. She then proceeded to read to us the fact that she would hand out some questions for us to answer on the video. This is the worst part. There were only fifteen questions on the sheet. The questions deal with what we had just seen on the video. Two of the questions had no correct answers. They were multiple choice with no correct choice. I wrote in what should have been the correct answers. Our experimenter, at this point, had left the room and did not reenter for another ten minutes. When she did come back, she rearranged the papers on her desk and left once again. Everyone had finished at this point and we're all wondering what to do. If the credit receipts had been on the desk we could have all left, because we knew that the experiment was over. We sat for at least another five minutes, waiting on our warden to come release us from the prison we were trapped in. She finally re-entered, told us we could go, and then remembered that we earned credit receipts, and told us to grab one on the way out. It was the only experiment I participated in which I found lacking in organization and torture to sit through. I would

definitely not recommend this experiment to anyone.

Overall, I found the experiments fairly enjoyable. I did not mind participating in them at all. I don't even really mind this reaction paper I am engaged in write now. I was originally signed up to participate in more experiments than I did. Unfortunately, I received a phone call one day from a guy in charge of one of the experiments saying it was canceled, and then I had to miss two on the seventeenth of April due to an unexpected trip with one of my classes in Watauga College. All in all, I earned three hours and forty-five minutes in psychology experiments.