

PSY 100 Research Proposal: Lab Activity 25C

1. My main research question is whether aggression is related to neuroticism.
2. My study is correlational.
3. I chose a correlational method because neuroticism is a personality trait and cannot really be manipulated. Therefore, I am only able to determine if the two variables are related to each other, not if one causes the other.
4. My hypothesis is that there will be a positive correlation between neuroticism and aggression. I predict that those who are higher in neuroticism will also be higher in aggression, and those who are lower in neuroticism will be lower in aggression.
5. My two variables are neuroticism and aggression. I will measure neuroticism by having participants complete the items from the Neuroticism scale of the NEO-PI-R. The NEO-PI-R is a self-report measure allows people to rate the extent to which statements are true about themselves on a five-point scale that ranges from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree.” The level of measurement for neuroticism, as measured by the NEO-PI-R, is ordinal. Aggression will be measured by number of times a participant is willing to push a button that causes a confederate to hear a loud, aversive noise. The level of measurement for aggression is ratio.
6. I will control for competitiveness because that is a variable that could impact the amount of aggressive behavior participants engage in.
7. I will gather data by having participants come in individually. I will ask them to complete the NEO-PI-R Neuroticism measure and a competitiveness measure. Then, I will tell participants they are playing a competitive game against another person. The objective of the game is to see who can type a word that appears on a computer

screen quickest. The participants will be told that they can press a button as many times as they want that causes the person they are playing against to hear a loud, annoying noise for 10 seconds each time it is pressed.

8. I am not using an experimental design.
9. Responding to the items on the NEO-PI-R and competitiveness measure will not be harmful to participants. The aggression measure also will not be harmful to participants because although participants will be told that someone will hear a loud, annoying noise, that will not actually be the case.
10. The knowledge gained from my study could add to the research on what personality factors are associated with aggression. If a correlation is found, clinicians could use this information to develop interventions to decrease aggressive behavior that take into account the personality trait of neuroticism.