**Project 1: Correlational Designs Research Project and Paper**

**STEP 1 – THE RESEARCH IDEA** (You’ll write this in once we’ve decided)

**STEP 2** **– TURNING THE IDEA INTO AN EMPIRICAL QUESTION** (You’ll write this in once we’ve decided)

**STEP 3 – DOING LIBRARY RESEARCH**

I will start you off with some useful descriptors (*driving behavior, highway safety, personality*) and a full text review article on the topic: Sharkin, B. (2004). Road rage: Risk factors, assessment, and intervention strategies. *Journal of Counseling and Development, 82*(2), 191-198. You must then find **two more** primary research articles from peer-reviewed journals to include in your report.

# STEP 4 – COLLECTING THE DATA

* Recruit at least four adult research participants – one male and one female.
* Make sure that both are licensed drivers who have been driving for at least one year.
* Create an Informed Consent form, using the template you were given. Say that the purpose of the study is to learn about people’s driving habits. Among other things, explain that the procedure will involve filling out two brief questionnaires, and will take about 10 minutes.
* After obtaining the participant's consent, give him/her either the Aggressive Driving Survey\* (ADS) or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (INSERT THE ONE WE CHOOSE HERE). We will give you four copies, with the orders of the two surveys counterbalanced (reversed)
* When the second questionnaire is complete, debrief (tell them what the study is about) and dismiss with thanks.

BRING THE SURVEYS BACK TO CLASS NO LATER THAN:

* THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 2022

**STEP 5** 🡪 You will enter the data and learn how to score the surveys during lab on 2/18. We will analyze and interpret the data that day as well.

**STEP 6** 🡪 Write the report in accordance with APA guidelines. It must include all key sections of an APA-style manuscript – title page, introduction, method, results, discussion, and reference sections – *plus* a table and a figure (which we will show you how to create).

**PAPER GUIDELINES:** HOWEVER, this will be a rather brief paper relative to the second project. You will need a title page (but no abstract), an introduction, one of about two pages will likely work well, a single page or less for methods, a paragraph for results, and a paragraph or two for the discussion. You will also need a reference page. We will show you how to create the figure.

**NOTE: Your paper may NOT include ANY quotes. You must paraphrase and cite.**

**For the Method Section, below are the basics that you will need to include:**

Participants. We will fill this in when we analyze the data. Recall, you’ll want a description of the number of participants, broken down at least by gender and race, and where they came from (i.e., volunteers from a small liberal arts college in the Southeastern United States – or something like that).

Procedure

You will need to describe the measures you used, citing where they came from if from elsewhere. One of the scales/surveys we used is called the “competition-cooperation” scale. It came from Martin and Larsen, 1976. I’ve posted that article for you so that you can cite and put it in your reference section (though it does not count as one of your required three sources).

The other scale we used to measure aggressive driving was researcher-created. That means we (I) made it up. In your paper, you should write that it was created by the researchers (not by your professor, though I understand that’s more accurate).

To describe the measures, look at the articles you cite to see how they do this. Usually, this means to describe what construct the scale intends to measure, provide any known information on its validity (briefly, albeit), describe how many items there were and indicate the scale anchors used, and provide an example or two.

Here is an example, which is much longer than yours will need to be, but it will give you the idea:

The 14-item Revised Competitiveness Index (Houston et al., 2002) is a self-report questionnaire that includes two subscales assessing aspects related to competitiveness: Enjoyment of Competition (nine items) (e.g., *I like competition*; *I don’t like competing against other people*) and Contentiousness (four items), (e.g., *I try to avoid arguments*; *I don’t enjoy challenging others even when I think they are wrong*). Items were presented with a five-point Likert scale from, 1= *strongly disagree* to 5 = strongly *agree*, with nine negatively worded items that need to be reversed coded before calculating subscale scores. Total subscale scores were calculated by summing responses for each item in the subscale, with higher scores corresponding to higher levels of competitiveness traits. In the article reporting on the development of the scale (Houston et al., 2002), Cronbach’s alpha values were 0.90 and 0.74 for the subscales Enjoyment of Competition and Contentiousness, respectively. Acceptable values were also obtained in the present sample, with 0.94 for Enjoyment of Competition and 0.82 for Contentiousness.

You’ll also want to note that the order of the two surveys was counterbalanced across participants. (“Counterbalanced” is psychology jargon which means some people got the surveys in one order an others got it in the different order.)

Finally, simply tell us that participants completed a set of 4 demographic questions and were thanked for their participation.

**\*\*GO TO NEXT PAGE\*\***

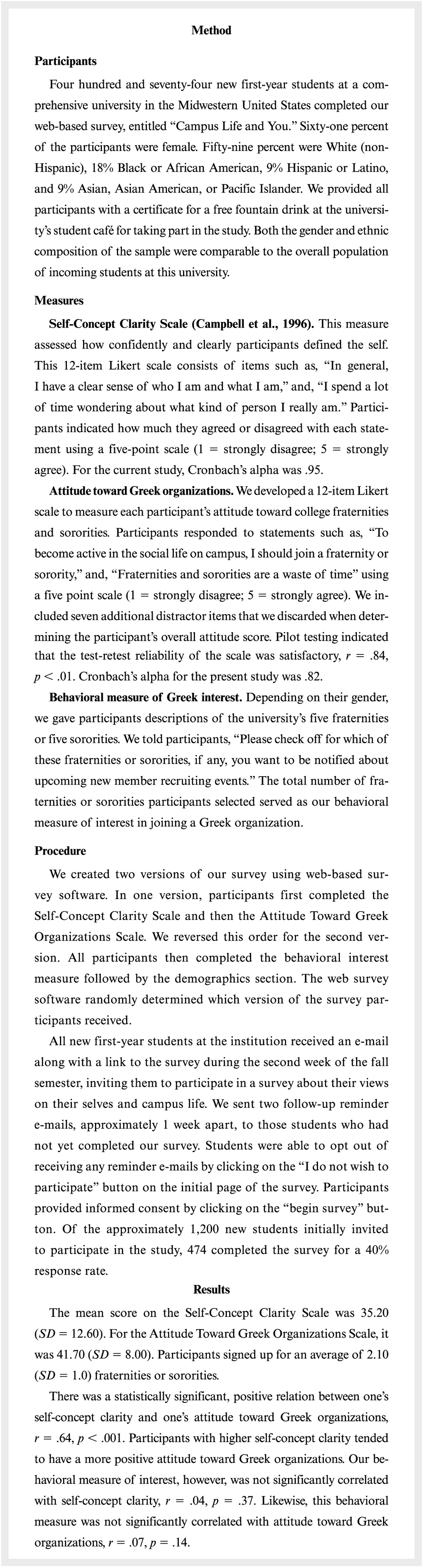
**For the Results section**

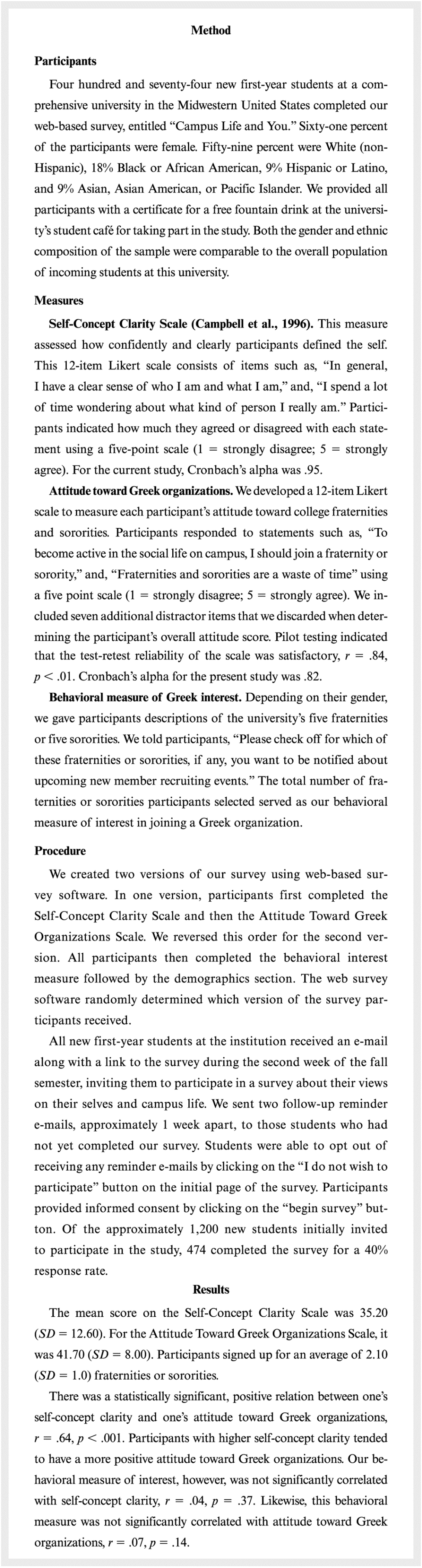
Follow Kail ch. 6 and you’ll be fine.

First, IF you did not do so in the method section, you’ll want to describe that some items needed to be reverse coded. Then, you’ll tell us about the internal reliability analysis you conducted and the outcome. Then you will tell us you therefore created a single composite measure of the two variables call them whatever you like). Here is an example of this from a recent PPT you have:

Five items assessed relationship satisfaction (*α* = .91, *M* = 7.78, *SD* = 1.14), and seven items assessed commitment (*α* = .86, *M* = 7.93, *SD* = 1.28; Rusbult, Martz, & Agnew, 1998) on a 9-point scale (1 *= do not agree at all*, 9 = *agree completely*). Participants also completed the Ten-Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann, 2003), assessed on a 7-point scale (1 = *disagree strongly*, 7 = *agree strongly*) and indicated how much time they spent on Facebook per day (*M* = 57.56 min; *SD* = 52.77).

Then you will briefly remind us of the hypothesis and how you tested it. Then tell us in words what you found, supported by the r statement. Below is an example from a correlation design paper from former students. This example includes the entire method and results section.





I tend to prefer it when authors remind us briefly at the beginning of the results of the hypothesis, so I’d have written it this way:

We examined the hypothesis that those higher in self-concept clarity would report more positive attitudes toward joining Greek organizations. As hypothesized, participants with higher self-concept clarity tended to have a more positive attitude toward Greek organizations, *r* = .64, *p* < .001. And so on..

**DISCUSSION.** For this paper, all you need to do is one paragraph reiterating what you found (in words, not numbers) and one that draws a conclusion. See Kail, ch. 7 for how the first paragraph of a Discussion is typically written.

For METHODS

For the Participants section:

* Total sample size (53)
* Note that 6 participants did not complete the demographic section
* Report the mean and standard deviation of age and of years driving experience
* Report Either raw numbers or percentages of gender and race
* Note that participants were a convenience sample of volunteers collected by members of a research methods course

In the Procedure (OR in a “Measures”) subsection don’t; forget to describe the scales, give us example items, and so on.

What you need for your RESULTS section

You’ll first need to tell your reader how you prepared the data for analysis. So, tell us if items needed to be reverse scored and how many (in our case, that was 9 of the 14 items on the competitiveness scale, and none of the 25 items on the aggressive driving scale.

Then tell us about your internal reliability analysis (Cronbach’s alpha) for each measure (the competitiveness scale and the aggressive driving scale.

Then tell us you computed a summed, or composite score for each scale to conduct your analysis.

Then, remind us briefly of your hypothesis and what analysis you did, tell us what it means and report the numbers.

BAM! You’re done!