Project 2 Paper

The general format of this paper will be in APA style. This will be a hard copy turned in to me (typed and stapled) **with the sections as described below**. This means that the section headings, section titles, subsections, references, and spacing will be formatted as described in the APA manual. The content will **not** be the same as most APA papers, because most of you will only be writing about one subject, and you won’t be conducting a true experiment.

**Sections of the paper**:

Title Page – Include the title for your paper and your name. This page does NOT have to be in APA style.

Introduction – In this section you will introduce the topic(s) of this paper, including previous research related to your topic. Refer to previous operant studies to put your project in context. Make sure to explain any potentially unfamiliar terms (potentially citing Chance or Pryor). Although you will not have a true hypothesis statement, tell what you thought your subject would be able to accomplish *before* starting the project.

Method – In this section you will describe how this project was done.

*Subjects/Participants* – describe your subject. Include approximate age and sex. If you used a rat and you had to food deprive it, what was the target body weight? Our rats are Sprague-Dawley strain rats and are about 3 months old (at the start of the project).

*Apparatus* –describe any equipment you used for this project including clicker, type of food reward, dimensions, type of material (plastic, wood, etc.), pictures could be helpful here.

*Procedure* – describe **in detail** how you trained your subject, what the different phases of training were, etc. Describe this in enough detail so someone else could read this and do the same thing. Please include the **number of training sessions and the total time spent on the project**.  **I would also like an Honor Code statement and your signature.** If you spent time building an apparatus or food-depriving, write that down as well, but separately from the time you spent training. Be as specific as possible.

Results – In this section you will provide evidence that your subject learned (or didn’t learn) the tasks.

If your subject was a food-deprived rat, you should include a typed weight chart showing the target weight, how much the rat was fed and how much it weighed on a daily basis. You should also describe how long it took for your subject to learn each task. How did you quantify your subject’s progress on the tasks? When possible, include charts, tables, or figures to illustrate your data. If possible, include pictures or a video of your subject’s progress (or you could just show this in your presentation the last day of class).

Discussion – First, you will re-state your results in the context of previous research, with citations. How were your findings similar or different to research that has been conducted in the past? You will also talk about what your subject, and you, learned from this project (by answering the questions below).

For each task: Did your subject learn this easily? How did your subject’s behavior change as you moved through the different phases of your project? Describe anything of note along the way and why you think it occurred.

How was your experience with training similar or different than the way these things were discussed in class and in the books? How did your experience compare to the previous research you read?

Did you experience any problems in training? If so, what were the problems? Were these problems due to you or to your subject or both? What did you do to fix them? What could you have done differently, if anything, to solve the problems? What are some ways that your training could have been improved?

What did you like about this experience? What didn’t you like and what are some suggestions for improvement? What was most surprising to learn or experience? Would you recommend this project to a future student? Anything else you think is relevant or interesting.

References – List any references you used for this paper, in APA style. **In addition to Chance and Pryor, I would like you to use at least five outside references, and at least three of these should be a primary source**. You should cite at least three outside references in both the introduction and the discussion. You don’t have to find the exact study that you did, but maybe you can find a similar study, or a study that had some of the same procedures that you used. You may have to look at some early research to find a simple enough study to cite. If you have trouble finding sources, let me know and I can help.