

Human Subjects Research Petition Checklist

****Include this checklist and your original petition(s) in any resubmissions****

- Use proper grammar and spelling, and check for readability and flow. Have someone proofread your petition.
- Your proposal can only be 1 page long, with no cover page, folders, binders, or cover slips, in 12-point Ariel or Times New Roman font, and at least 1-inch margins all around. *Anything else may not be read.*
- Heading needs name, grade, and teacher to whom the petition should be returned. *Petitions will not be read without these.*
- Do not include a bibliography in the proposal. However, parenthetical references are appropriate and expected.
- There is too great of a risk by doing this project. There is a possibility of psychological, physical, or liability harm if this project is conducted as proposed. You will need to choose another topic or significantly change your line of investigation.
- It is not feasible for a high school student to conduct the project. Insufficient resources, training, supervision, etc.
- You have not adequately addressed confidentiality issues.
- You have not adequately addressed safety issues.
- You have not adequately addressed liability issues.
- The purpose of your project is missing or is not clear. What are you trying to achieve by doing this project?
- There is a concern with your hypothesis – see checked circles below.
 - Your hypothesis is missing, is not clear, or is incorrect.
 - Your hypothesis cannot be validated by experimentation.
 - There is not an alignment among the purpose, hypothesis, and experimental design.
 - Supporting evidence/research for your hypothesis is needed. Use parenthetical citations only. No bibliography.
 - The stated reason/justification for your hypothesis is incorrect, invalid, or not applicable.
 - The “because” statement of your hypothesis will not be tested. It needs to be omitted from your hypothesis and restated within the general contents of your petition.
 - You need objective terminology. Words like “good”, “well”, “thoroughly”, “properly”, “best”, etc., are subjective.
 - Consider the data you intend you collect, and make an objective comparative statement about them.
 - Your project will only evaluate correlation, not causation. You need to restate your purpose/hypothesis/conclusion to reflect this.
 - Do not use the word “prove” in research. “Support”, “refute”, “indicate”, “demonstrate”, etc. are preferred.
- There is a concern with your experimental design – see checked circles below.
 - Your experimental design is not valid. It will not adequately test your hypothesis.
 - There are missing details and/or elaborations in your experimental design.
 - Your operational definitions are missing, not clear, misleading, or invalid.
 - There is a concern with your variables/data. See checked boxes below.
 - Your independent and/or dependent variables are not clear, are missing, or are incorrect.
 - Clarify how you will measure your independent and/or dependent variables.
 - Your experimental design does not adequately investigate/address the independent variable.
 - Your experimental design does not adequately test the dependent variable.
 - There are too many variables/factors affecting your dependent variable. You need to find a way to keep these constant or increase your sample size.
 - Define/clarify your data. What specific objective data (*measurements, frequencies, etc.*) will you collect?
 - How will you collect your data?
 - What is your “treatment”? How will you affect/observe the independent variable in order to measure/observe its impact on the dependent variable?
 - How will you analyze your data? Be sure to use objective criteria.
 - You need to give specifics on your intended subjects. What group(s) will you test? Location(s) of subjects. Age ranges? Method(s) of finding/contacting them? Etc.
 - It does not seem feasible that you will be able to find/test your target group(s).
 - You need to include a subject candidacy screening questionnaire/process in your proposal to determine eligibility to participate in your study.
 - Your project design will not allow for an objective or valid conclusion.
 - You do not have a way to make a viable conclusion with your proposed experimental design.

Notes: _____

