

Learning Science by Doing: Real Research in Experimental Psychology

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Experimental Psychology

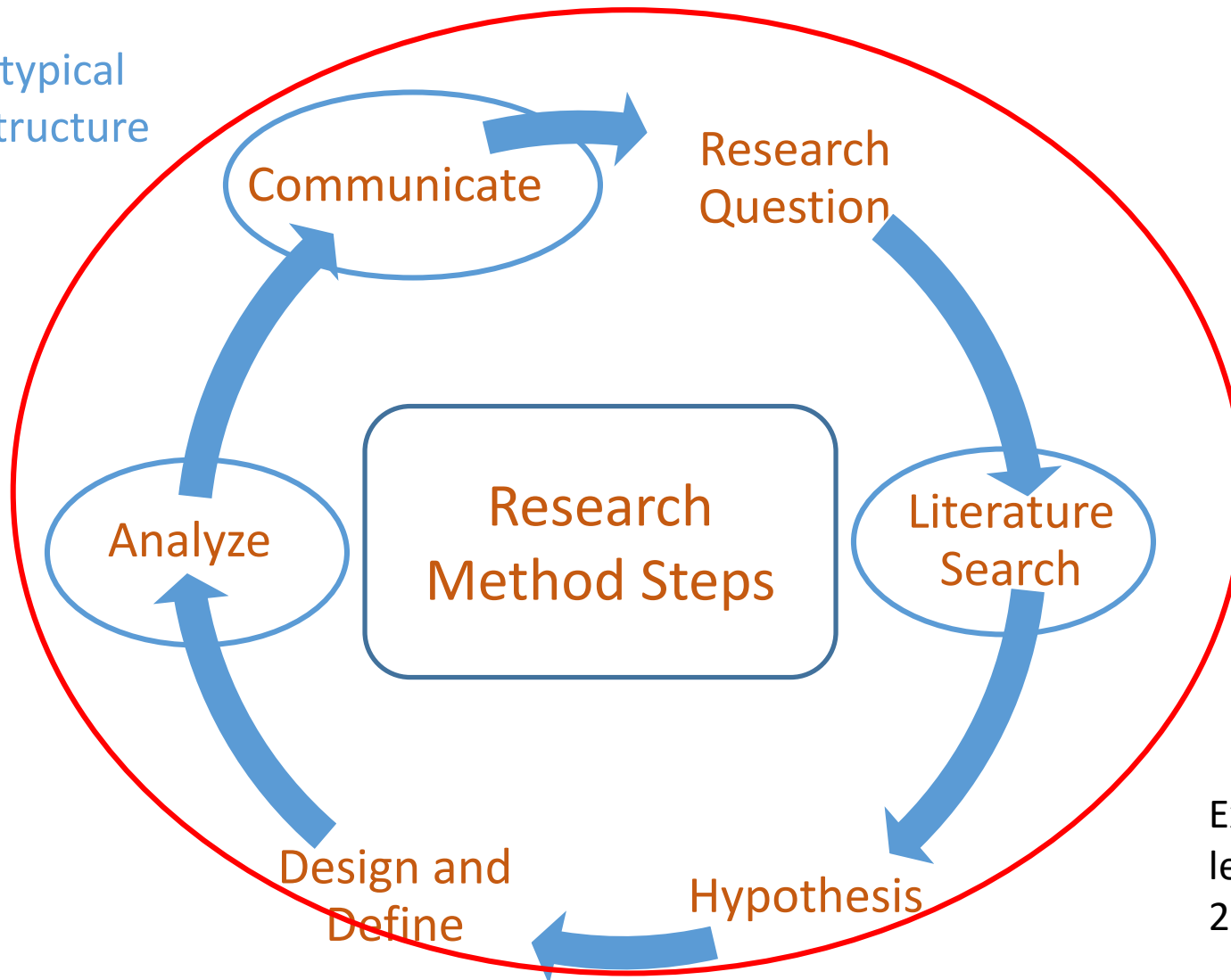
A grayscale photograph of several students sitting at desks in a computer lab, working on their laptops. The students are in profile, facing right, and are focused on their work. The lighting is soft, and the background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the students in the foreground.

- 24 students
- Core required course
- Textbook Lectures
- Laboratory
 - class exercises (e.g., Stroop Effect **Red** vs **Blue**)
 - Read description
 - Participate (typically on computer)
 - Discuss
- Writing Component
 - 4 APA style papers

Experimental Psychology

Course Objective: construct & evaluate research, understand methodologies, APA writing

typical
structure



Experience *full*
scientific method
lifecycle with CLASS
ACTIVITY!

Experience promotes
learning (Kolb & Kolb,
2005; Kolb, 2014)

Activity Time-Line

Week 1 – Design

- Organize (5 groups)
- Plan
- Define



Week 3 - Communicate

- Discuss
- Presentations
- Write

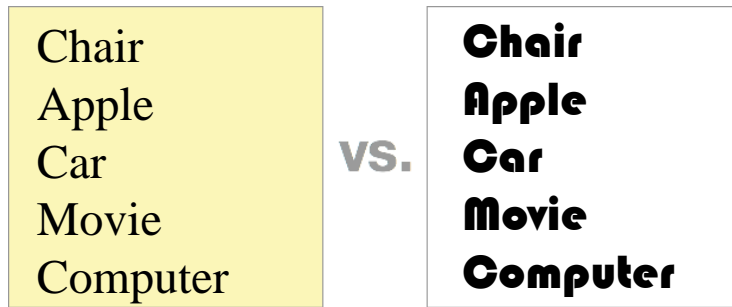


Week 2 – Execute

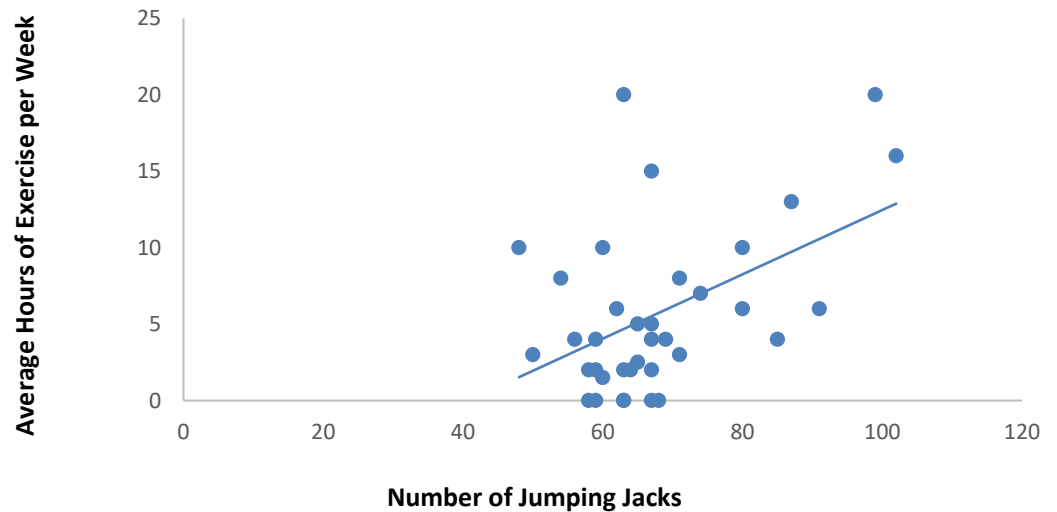
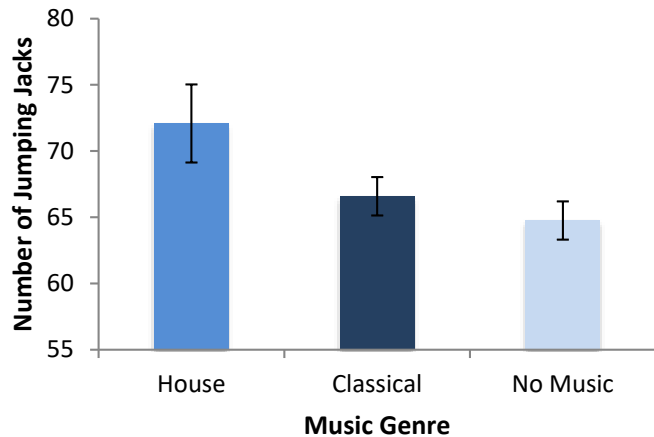
- More defining
 - Recruit
- Consent/debrief
 - Data analysis



Sample Projects



“Influence of color and font on short term memory”



“Music’s effect on exercise intensity”

Outcome and Future Directions

Paper Type	Average Grade	Range
Standard Paper 1	79.62 (<i>SD</i> = 12.25)	60-98
Standard Paper 2	84.29 (<i>SD</i> = 9.60)	58-98
Group Project Paper	86.43 (<i>SD</i> = 7.27)	70-96

- Real scientific experience
- Deeper understanding of experimental process
- Academic improvement
- Future Directions –
 - Objective measures of: Academic success, retention , student enjoyment