Methods Review

- 1. Central tendency: average or most typical scores of a set or research data or distribution
- 2. **Confounding variables:** *factors that cause differences between the experimental group and the control group other than the independent variable*
- 3. Control group: the comparison group
- 4. Correlation coefficient (r): a statistical measure of the degree of relatedness or association between two sets of data that ranges from -1 to +1
- 5. **Demand characteristics:** *clues participants discover about the purpose of the study that suggests how they should respond*
- 6. **Dependent variable (DV):** the behavior or method process that is measured in an experiment or quasiexperiment
- 7. Descriptive statistics: number that summarizes a set of research data obtained from a sample
- 8. **Double-blind procedure:** *research design in which neither the experimenter nor the participants know who is in the the experimental or control group*
- 9. **Experimental group:** the subgroup of the sample that receives the treatment or independent varibale
- 10. **Experimenter bias:** *a phenomenon that occurs when a researcher's expectations or preferences about the outcome of a study influence the results obtained*
- 11. **Frequency distribution:** *an orderly arrangement of scores indicating the frequency of each score or group of scores*
- 12. Hypothesis: prediction of how two or more factors are likely to be related
- 13. Independent variable (IV): the factor the researcher manipulates in a controlled experiment
- 14. Inferential statistics: statistics that are used to interpret data and draw conclusions
- 15. Longitudinal Study: Something is studied over several years or decades.
- 16. **mean:** *the arithmetic average of a set of scores*
- 17. median: the middle score when a set of data is ordered by size
- 18. mode: most frequently occurring score in a set of research data
- 19. Normal distribution: bell-shaped curve that represents data about how lots of human characteristics are dispersed in the population



- 20. **Operational definition:** *a description of the specific procedure used to determine the presence of a variable*
- 21. Percentile score: the percentage of scores at or below a particular score
- 22. **Placebo:** a physical or psychological treatment given to the control group that resembles the treatment given to the experimental group, but contains no active ingredients
- 23. **Placebo effect:** a response to the belief that the independent variable will have an effect, rather than the actual effect of the independent variable, which can be a confounding variable
- 24. Population: all of the individuals in the group to which the study applies
- 25. Quasi-Experiment: Similar to experiment, but lacks the element of random assignment to treatment or control. (ie: if the IV is gender.)
- 26. **Random assignment:** *division of the sample into groups so that every individual has an equal chance of being put in any group or condition*

- 27. **Random selection:** choosing of members of a population so that every individual has an equal chance of being chosen
- 28. Range: the difference between the largest score and the smallest score
- 29. Reliability: consistency or repeatability of results
- 30. **Replication:** *repetition of the methods used in a previous experiment to see whether the same methods will yield the same results*
- 31. Sample: the subgroup of people from the larger population you wish to study
- 32. **Single-blind procedure:** *research design in which participants don't know whether they are in the experimental or control group*
- 33. Standard deviation (SD): measures the average difference between each score and the mean of the data set
- 34. **Statistical significance (p):** the condition that exists when the probability that the observed findings are due to chance is less than 1 in 20 (p<.05) or less than 1 in 100 (p<.01)
- 35. Statistics: a field that involves the analysis of numerical data about representative samples of population
- 36. Theories: organized sets of concepts that explain phenomena
- *37.* **Type I Error:** *When there is a claim of a relationship when there is none.*
- 38. Type II Error: When there is no claim of a relationship when there is one.
- 39. Validity: the extent to which an instrument measures or predicts what is supposed to measure or predict
- 40. Variability: the spread or dispersion of a set of research data or distribution
- 41. **Z-score:** A z-score is essentially a conversion of a score to a standard deviation. For example, a z of +1.00 means that the score is 1 standard deviation unit above the mean, whereas a z of -1 means it is 1 standard deviation unit below the mean. (Used when comparing different types of information, such as ACT and SAT scores.)

Correlations:



APA guidelines for animal	1. must have clear scientific purpose 2. humane care for animals
research?	3. animals must be trapped or bought legally 4. suffering must be minimized
APA guidelines for human	No Coercion – Participation must be voluntary
research?	Informed consent – They must know that they are involved in research and give
	their consent. If they are deceived, what they DID consent to must be similar to
	actual study.
	Minimize trauma.
	Anonymity/confidentiality/privacy
	Consider and minimize risk – mental and physical safety
	Debriefing procedure – afterward, participants must be told of purpose of study
	and be able to contact researcher about results