

Sample Experiment Script

A "script" for an experiment is a description of everything that the experimenters will say and do during the experiment.

Actions are in angle brackets (" $<$ " " $>$ "),

Speech is in double quotes (" ").

The idea is to follow the script exactly each time the experiment is done (for consistency) - rather than trying to improvise. Writing out your script before doing the experiment helps you think through the steps carefully. Here's a simple example.

<Participants arrive>

"Hello everyone, please be seated."

<Participants sit down. >

"I am now going to distribute a questionnaire. Please answer the questions as accurately as possible. When you are finished, turn it over and leave it on your desk."

<Pass out questionnaire and wait for participants to complete it>

"I am now going to distribute two sheets. One contains a story and the other is blank. Please keep the paper with writing face down until I tell you to turn it over."

<Pass out both papers, blank and sheet containing text>

"You will have 2 min 20 to read the text. After the time is up, turn the paper back over and I will come and collect it. When I collect your story, I will also give you the pen that you need to write with. You will then write on the blank sheet everything that you remember from the story. You may now turn over your sheet and begin reading the story."

<Time 2 min >

"Stop. Please turn your sheet face down and I will come to collect it."

<Collect the papers and pass out the pens>

"Please use the pen that I gave you to write everything that you can remember from the story. When you are finished, turn your answer sheet face down and raise your hand. I will come collect your answer sheet and pen."

<Wait for participants to complete their responses>

<After all data is collected and study is over>

"Thank you for participating in this study. Does anyone have any questions?"

<Answer any questions>

"Thank you for your help."