

The background features a light gray geometric pattern of overlapping triangles. In the center, two dark gray silhouettes of human heads in profile face each other. Between them are two overlapping speech bubbles, one light green and one light blue.

Final project: getting started

PSYC 11: Laboratory in Psychological Science

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Approximate schedule

Remaining weeks

- **This week:** find a group, design your study, start implementing/building
- **Week 7:** human subjects training, collect data
- **Week 8:** analyze data
- **Week 9:** interpreting results + public poster presentation
- **Week 10:** wrap-up (paper and final poster)

How to pick a topic

Finding your question

- What **puzzles** you about human behavior or the mind?
- What do you find yourself arguing about or wondering about in everyday life?
- Think about topics from this course (or other courses) that stuck with you
- A good project question is one you genuinely want to know the answer to

Forming groups

Team composition tips

- Ideal group size: **3 students** (2--4 is OK)
- Look for **complementary skills** (coding, writing, design, stats)
- Shared curiosity about a topic matters more than shared expertise
- Create a Slack channel for your group -- invite all members + TA + me

From curiosity to a study

The brainstorming funnel

1. Start broad: what **topic area** interests your group?
2. Narrow down: what **specific question** can you ask?
3. Get practical: what **evidence** would help answer it?
4. Scope it: can you realistically do this in **3--4 weeks**?

Discussion: what makes a question "testable"?

Think about this

- "Why do people procrastinate?" -- is this testable as stated?
- How would you turn a vague curiosity into something you could actually measure?
- What is the difference between a **question** and a **hypothesis**?

Breakout group brainstorm

Activity (20 minutes)

1. Form your project groups (or temporary groups if still deciding)
2. Each person shares **one question** they find interesting (2 min each)
3. As a group, pick **one or two** favorites and sketch out:
 - What would you **measure**?
 - Who would your **participants** be?
 - What would a **result** look like?
4. Be ready to **pitch** your idea to the class in 1--2 minutes

Pitches!

Share your ideas

- Each group: give a **1--2 minute pitch** of your study idea
- Class: ask questions, suggest improvements, offer connections to other ideas
- Remember -- ideas will evolve! This is just the starting point.