

Psychology 381 – Principles of Statistics and Experimental Design

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Extra Credit Assignment - Make a Mnemonic

Background: As students you engage in a variety of strategies aimed at helping you to learn material for your classes. Most of us passively re-read material, quiz ourselves, and sometimes even study in groups. A few of us go further to create unique methods for helping us to learn the material. For example, someone may have once taught you the colors of the rainbow by asking you to remember the name, Roy G. Biv. Each of the letters in the name correspond to the first letter in the color of the rainbow (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, & Violet). Similarly, you may have learned the various classification levels of organisms by remembering that *King Phillip Came Over From Germany Saturday* (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, & Species). Each of these, and many many more, are called mnemonics, techniques that aim to improve memory retention. There are a variety of types of mnemonics that one may employ to help aid in studying and some are more appropriate for certain types of to-be-remembered information (e.g., Method of Loci). Note that not all mnemonics are language based. One might remember the number of days in each month by counting the months across one's knuckles, see below. Any mnemonic you create *for material in this class* is acceptable for this assignment, as long it passes a simple evaluation to ensure it is actually helpful and not just something you came up with on the day it was due.



Knuckle mnemonic for the number of days in each month of the Gregorian Calendar. Each projecting knuckle represents a 31-day month (Wikipedia).

Assignment Details: If you have created any mnemonics to aid in your studying this semester, please take this opportunity to earn points for them AND to share them with your peers. For every mnemonic that is submitted (and passes an evaluation by myself and the TA), you will receive *two points* on your final exam grade. You are allowed to submit *up to 5* different mnemonics and they can be on the same material. With each mnemonic, I would like you to *estimate the mnemonic's effectiveness* in helping you study the material. Please do so using a 0-100% scale, where 0% indicates it was not helpful at all and 100% indicates that it was very helpful. If you did not actually use it in studying then please indicate that it was not used.

Due Date: All mnemonics must be **typed** and submitted via email or printed by the end of class on April 15th, 2015. If your mnemonic involves a creative drawing or picture, you may include a handwritten page as well.