1. Proposal #

2. Have the researchers accurately (and adequately) defined each of their Independent and Dependent Variables?

3. Is the study a between-subjects study with at least 3 groups?

4. Are there any practical problems that you foresee with this study? For example, a research proposal that intends to study individuals living in China would be impractical because you will not be able to travel to China to collect the data. What practical problems do you foresee here and how might they be overcome?

5. What ethical concerns do you foresee with this study (be specific)?
   a. For each concern that you list, please describe how this research could (if it is possible) modify their research proposal to bring it in line with our ethical standards.

6. Do you approve this study to begin data collection? (circle one) It may help to think about the benefits and risks of the study.
   a. Yes
   b. Yes, if they address the concerns listed above
   c. No
Research Proposal #1
IV(s): Age, Gender, Senior College
   Levels: Graduating with Job, Graduating with Graduate School Admission, Graduating with No Definite Plans
DV: Level of anxiety (increase or decrease after a conversation with a confederate)
   • Will use an established anxiety questionnaire
Possible Confounds [will be measured]: Home life (married, kids, etc.), previous education
Population: College Seniors  Sample: College Seniors at UMD/HFCC
Purpose: Studying the effects of pre/post stress and how it affects anxiety in college seniors, will gender play a role or confounding variables? Anxiety test will be given. Participant won’t be told the true experiment but will be debriefed in the end.
Ethics: Participant ID#s, Info on counseling during debriefing, anxiety warnings on consent form

Research Proposal #2
IV(s): Ethnicity
   Levels: African American, Middle Eastern, (unsure of third group)
DV: Amount of tip left after a meal at a restaurant.
Population: People dining at the restaurant Experimenter A works at. Sample: ________?
Possible Confounds: __________________________________________________________
Purpose: We are studying how people of different ethnicities tip when dining out at a restaurant. We are going to leave a survey on the table with questions for the guests to fill out, including their ethnicity and if they enjoyed their service. When they are done eating, we will leave the bill with them with a suggested tip on the bottom. 15% = ‘this much money’. 18% = ‘this much money’. 20% = ‘this much money’.
Ethics: Needing consent to use their data on how much they tipped on their bill.

Research Proposal #3
IV(s): Type of preferred video game
   Levels: None, Puzzle Game, Action Game
DV: Reaction times to a simple tone detection task (i.e., press a key when you hear a tone).
Possible Confounds: Previous experience/history with games. Will attempt to quantify.
Population: __________________________ Sample: ______________
Purpose: I would like to study the effects of playing video games on a person’s reaction times.
Ethics: __________________________?

Research Proposal #4
IV(s): Study format
   Levels: Reading words, Hearing words, Both Reading and Hearing words
DV: Percentage of words remembered from the studied list
Population: Students of all academic levels  Sample: College students
Possible Confounds: __________________________________________________________
Purpose: We want to find the most optimal way to study when students are limited on time. Participants will be randomly assigned to a group, presented with 50 words in a particular format, and after a 5 minute delay their memory will be tested.
Ethics: None
Research Proposal #5
IV(s): Type of music
        Levels: Preferred genre, disliked genre, neutral (neither like nor dislike)
DV: Problem solving ability on the Raven’s Progressive Matrices test.
Population: ______________________ Sample: ______________________
Possible Confounds: Prior mood. Noisy environment (might use headphone to reduce)
Purpose: I want to know if listening to one’s preferred music type will affect (improve?) the ability to solve complex problems.
Ethics: None, unless language in some songs proves to be offensive.

Research Proposal #6
IV(s): Position in birth order
        Levels: First-born, later-born (not first), only children (no siblings)
DV: Generosity, as measured by participants’ responses to hypothetical scenarios. Responses will be on a 7-point Likert scale.
Population: All American adults Sample: College students at UMD
Possible Confounds: Difference in age of siblings. They must be born within 10 years of each other in order to qualify for the study. Siblings must also be full genetic siblings (no half, no step, no adopted).
Purpose: I want to conduct this study because I have often heard the assertion that only children are more selfish than people with siblings, yet I have never heard of this being empirically tested. I want to know if birth order does affect people’s tendency to be generous.
Ethics: Minimal risk but if people have lost siblings then being asked questions about them might cause some discomfort. Counseling information will be on hand.

Research Proposal #7
IV(s): Type of clothing style
        Levels: Formal, Casual, Relaxed, Semi-Casual
DV: Mood (from a scale measure) before and after viewing pictures of individuals in these clothing styles.
Population: Young adults Sample: College students and individuals at work places
Possible Confounds: ______________________
Purpose: To determine if style of clothing someone wears can affect the mood of others that observe them.
Ethics: Possible issue with collecting data from individuals at place of business. Will seek approval from employer before contacting employees.
Research Proposal #8
IV(s): Whether or not a confederate is yawning, the number of confederates
   Levels: Minor yawning (one confederate), lot of yawning (two confederates), minor
   yawning (two confederates), lots of yawning (two confederates).
DV: How many times a participant yawns during the study.
Population: __________________________ Sample: __________________________
Possible Confounds: Distracting environment, previous tiredness (measured on survey)
Purpose: To determine if the number of individuals (and amount of) yawning will increase the
   probability (and frequency) of nearby observers also yawning.
Ethics: Participants will be deceived into thinking their memory will be tested for the content of
   the conversation they have with the confederate(s). They will be debriefed following the study.

Research Proposal #9
IV(s): Gender conformity
   Levels: Transgender (Male-to-Female AND Female-to-Male), Gender nonconforming
   but NOT transgender, and Gender conforming.
DV: Neuroticism (measured with an established scale), possibly self-esteem
Population: __________________________ Sample: __________________________
Possible Confounds: Location?, Time of Day?
Purpose: To determine if individuals that express different degrees of gender conformity also
   have related changes in neuroticism and/or self-esteem. It is predicted that transgender will have
   the highest levels of neuroticism.
Ethics: Anonymity of participants

Research Proposal #10
IV(s): Parenting style, gender, self-esteem
   Levels: Parenting Style: Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive
DV: Number of sexual partners
Population: __________________________ Sample: Students from UMD, with an
   attempt to get people from different ethnic backgrounds.
Possible Confounds: __________________________
Purpose: We would like to examine how parenting styles, gender, and self-esteem affect the
   amount of sexual partners among college students.
Ethics: Other than anonymity, which we hope to handle with unique participant ID#s (instead of
   names) but we are open to suggestions on how to ensure this.

Research Proposal #11
IV(s): Estimated parenting style (participants will estimate their parents’ parenting styles)
   Levels: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, uninvolved
DV(s): GPA, School involvement (number of student organizations, clubs, athletic teams)
Population: __________________________ Sample: __________________________
Possible Confounds: Students could lie or misrepresent parenting styles, gpa, involvement
Purpose: Does parenting style influence school performance?
Ethics: __________________________________________________________________________
Research Proposal #12
IV(s): Difficulty of game (mortal kombat)
   Levels: Beginner level, expert level, no game (reading or word search control task)
DV: Measured self-esteem following 15 minutes of game play
Population: ________________________  Sample: ________________________
Possible Confounds: We are turning off blood and gore because they might have affected one group more than another.
Purpose: This experiment will measure the influence of gaming on self esteem. Participants will play an action game of either an easy or difficult level and will answer a short questionnaire about their self esteem upon their completion of gaming. One group is set up to lose while the other is set up to win. The control group will complete a word search or read a short paragraph about a neutral subject.
Ethics: Data will be anonyymous, participants will be voluntary (and sign consent form), counseling information will be provided to participants in case of distress from playing the game. Everyone told they can discontinue at any time without penalty.

Research Proposal #13
IV(s): Time a cat is fed each day
   Levels: Free feed (no specific time, food always available), Cats with specific feeding times (food not available at other times), cats with dry food all day but wet/soft food at a time.
DV: Feeding behaviors at various times of the day (i.e., do they ‘expect’ to be fed and act that way?)
Population: ________________________  Sample: ________________________
Possible Confounds: _____________________________________________
Purpose: Do domesticated cats become accustomed to eating patterns or habits based on how they are fed as kittens? (This will be shown by observing the behaviors of cats when they anticipate food, for example waking their owner up at a specific time daily and waiting in the spot where the cat’s food is prepared)
Ethics: _____________________________________

Research Proposal #14
IV(s): Amount of alcohol consumed
   Levels: Sober (control, zero drinks), Buzzed (1-3 drinks), Drunk (more than 3 drinks)
DV: Number of words that they correctly recall from the studied list.
Population: ________________________  Sample: ________________________
Possible Confounds: _____________________________
Purpose: Testing the effects of alcohol on short-term word memory. Participants will be approached when they are already in a particular state of intoxication (IV level) and asked to participate. If they agree they will be shown a list of words (via flashcards), after which they will be given one minute and a blank sheet of paper to recall all that they can. Finally, they will fill out a brief demographic questionnaire asking about age, gender, drinks consumed, etc.
Ethics:________________________________________________
Research Proposal #15
IV(s): Types of stress that we will administer
   Levels: Social rejection video, Time pressure during rating task, No stressor (control)
DV: Ratings (attractiveness, intelligence, kindness, health) of photographs of potential romantic partners, Stress before and after the sample (as a manipulation check), see Grammer & Thornhill
Population: _______________________  Sample: __________________________
Possible Confounds: We need to rule out differences in sexual preference that might result in lower or higher ratings between homosexual and heterosexual participants. We will attempt to use only heterosexual participants to control for this possibility.
Purpose: We would like to see how different causes of stress affect how a person rates a potential dating partner. We think it would be interesting to see if different forms of stress cause people to perceive others either more negatively or positively in terms of how much of a chance the person under stress has with the prospective partner.
Ethics: The amount and type of stress may be harmful. Participants will be warned of this possibility in the consent form and instructions and will have contact information on hand for counseling services. Another ethical concern is keeping photographs people (our stimuli) private so we will try to use pictures of people that we are relatively certain the participants do not know.

Research Proposal #16
IV(s): Self-esteem/Mood
   Levels: Write a paragraph about what you like about yourself (high self-esteem), write a paragraph about what you dislike about yourself (low self-esteem), and no writing at all (control)
DV: Memory accuracy and memory confidence. I will give my participants 40 different words, for about 3 seconds each. I will then give them a list of 80 words and ask them two questions: Is the word new or old and their confident level about their answer (40 of the words will be old, 40 of the words will new). They will have as long as they want to answer this portion.
Population: General human adult population  Sample: __________________________
Possible Confounds: _______________________________________________
Purpose: I hope to explore the relationship between self-esteem and confidence levels. Specifically, I am hypothesizing that individuals who are primed to raise their self-esteem will have higher confidence levels compared to those who are primed to lower their self-esteem.
Ethics: I wonder if it’s ethical to intentionally lower somebody’s self-esteem level? I was thinking to avoid any potential risks, I could give all three of my groups positive sayings and encouraging quotes at the end when I debrief and/or counseling service numbers.

Research Proposal #17
IV(s): Type of reinforcement
   Levels: Written positive (“you did wonderful), drawn/picture positive (smiley face), none
DV: Level of behavioral change following reinforcement
Population: _______________________  Sample: UMD professors
Possible Confounds: Instructors may receive other feedback (positive or negative) and in different forms throughout their day, aside from the feedback we give them in this study.
Purpose: _______________________________________________________________
Ethics: Anonymity, potential for psychological harm following deception (false feedback), need for consent.