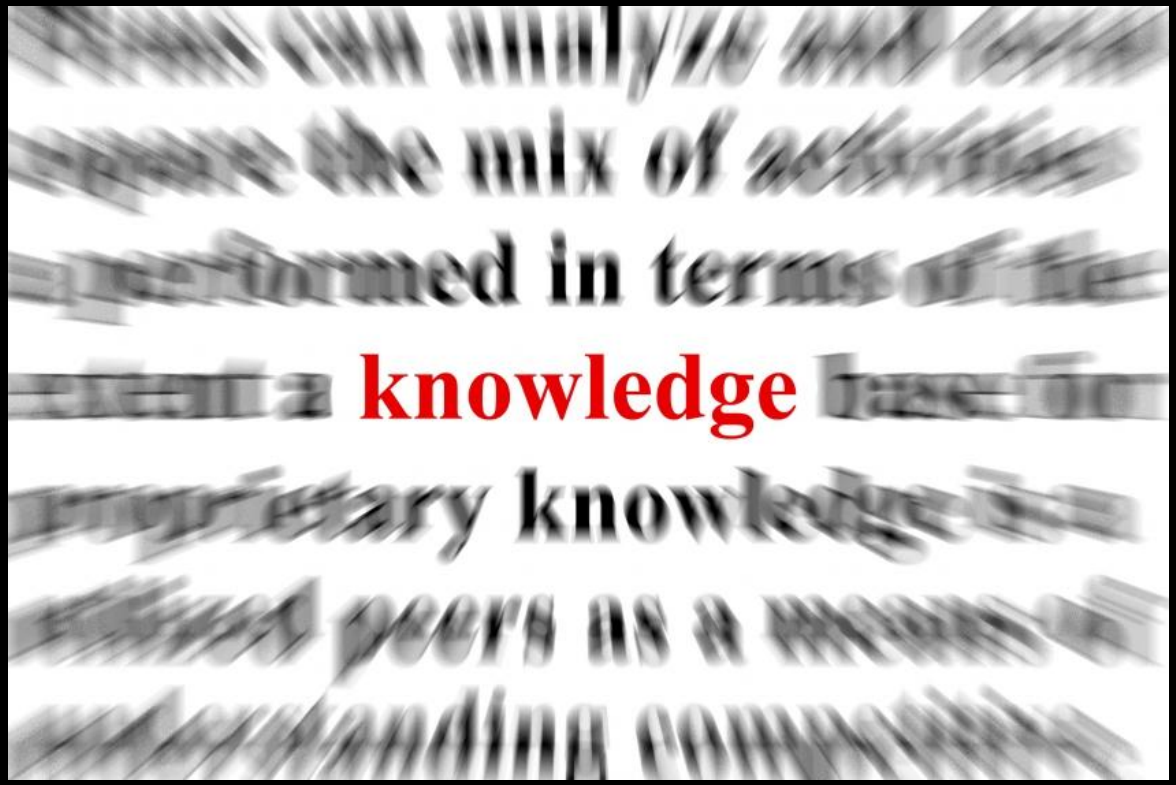
Why *should* you learn about and do research?

Advance knowledge in the field



Increase your chances of being accepted Into grad school

Learn skills required for high end jobs

Critical and analytical thinking

Creative thinking

Verbal and written communication

Perseverance & problem solving

Ability to work independent ly

Evaluate research findings

Popular literature vs. scientific journals

Differentiate between sound & unsound research

Understand the power & limitations of research

Be the shepherd not the sheep

Your research project: Ready, set, go!

Naturalistic Observation

NO interaction or intervention

with “participants” or their environment

Observe and record, ONLY!!!

ALL OBSERVATIONS MUST TAKE PLACE IN A PUBLIC SETTING WHERE THERE IS NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY!

Be a *good* scientist

1. Ask clear, well defined questions with measurable variables
2. Plan ahead & forecast problems
3. Be objective, consistent, and methodical
4. Separate empirical fact from inference

5. Be responsible and ethical

You MUST e-mail my TA, Sean, vanhillesean@gmail.com with the details of your project before you start collecting data!!!!

Embed his written approval in your project report.

No approval = no grade

You will also need to fill out and embed a submission checklist which can be found on my SUU web page

Guidelines & Expectations

You will need to use psychInfo or medline to find two scholarly/academic journal articles on your topic

Use the articles to define your study's "niche"….
i.e. why your question is important or justified…
In other words, the two published articles will have findings you will use to "set the stage" for your own study

Plan on observing 50? people/animals for 1-2 hours
Observations can (should?) be spread out over time

Your written report is due in 5 weeks!