

14.11 SPRING 2006
PUTTING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO THE TEST—FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN ECONOMICS
ASSIGNMENT # 6

Final Research Protocol
Due on Wednesday April 12, 2006

In this assignment, you will finalize your experimental protocol, describing in exacting detail the procedure for recruiting subjects, the assignment mechanism, the precise details of the experimental interventions and follow-ups, and a complete description of the data you will collect. Hence, Assignment #6 requires you to completely sort out all of the nuts and bolts of your procedure. For this purpose, imagine you are writing down the complete procedure for a skilled research assistant (or your professors!) who will conduct the experiment for you only based only on this memo. (You don't have to write the memo to the research assistant, however.)

Here are some examples of what your memo should include:

1. How you will recruit your subjects?
2. What is the mechanism you will use to assign subjects to the intervention(s) and control group?
3. Provide the details of the experimental interventions. For example:
 - What will be said to whom?
 - What information, objects and/or choices will be offered?
 - How will you follow-up if needed and over what time frame?
 - How will you assure anonymity without losing data?
4. What data will you collect (be exact about each data element)? How will preserve confidentiality while not losing data?

The above is not meant to be an exhaustive list of the requirements of this assignment. You will be graded on how well you fulfill the goal of providing a complete experimental protocol.

(Note: some of you will have already completed a large chunk of assignment #6 in your last memo. Congratulations! In this case, feel free to include—and improve upon as needed—your existing material.)