

Experimenter Bias

What is Experimenter Bias?

Experimenter bias is when a researcher or scientist introduces bias into an experiment.

Some examples of experimenter bias include manipulating results by choosing groups who act in a certain manner or encouraging participants to respond in a certain way.

Example of Experimenter Bias

In the scenario to the right, there are a few different ways that researchers could introduce bias into the experiment. What do you think is a bias that they could introduce into the study?

Scientists are studying how the length of nighttime sleep affects how long of a nap a toddler will take during the day. Scientists believe that the longer a toddler sleeps at night, the better they will sleep during the day because they are in a rested state. Their belief is, if they are overtired and worn out, they will not sleep well.

Example #2 of Experimenter Bias

In the scenario to the right, there are a few different ways that researchers could introduce bias into the experiment. What do you think is a bias that they could introduce into the study?

In this example, scientists are studying how the nutrition of student athletes affect their performance in sports. Scientists believe that eating well-balanced meals will increase the students' sports performance by increasing their speed and agility.

Your Turn!

In groups, you will work together to come up with your own experimenter bias example. Write this scenario on chart paper to share with the class when it is time.

Discuss!

Experimenter Bias Problems

Multiple Choice

Researchers are researching links between the amount of time students spend reading for fun and overall grades of core academic subjects. Researchers believe that students who read more outside of school will have better grades in core subject areas. Which of the following would be considered an experimenter bias in this experiment?

- Researchers choose students who read a lot in their free time and do well academically.
- Researchers choose students at random to participate in this experiment.
- Researchers have a control group.
- Researchers use an independent variable in the experiment.

Your Turn!

**You will work on a
multiple choice question
quiz independently at
this time.**

