## Instructions for Writing Lab Report – Memory for U.S. Presidents

* Before you begin writing your report, you should read 1) the sections in your textbook on “Memory Retention,” “Serial Position Effect,” and “Aging and Memory”; 2) the two research articles by Roediger and DeSoto (posted on the course page); and 3) the *Presidents Results Summary* document (posted on the course page).
* Your lab report should follow the outline below. Use the number and bold label to identify each paragraph. Prepare your graphs using the *Presidents Graph Template* (posted on the course page) or your own graphing program. Be sure to include your own data sheet and the two graph pages with your report. The points available for each question are listed after the question. There are 20 points possible.
* Type your report. Expected length: 2.5 to 3 pages (not including graph pages and data sheet), single-spaced, using a 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Do not use a title page, but put your name and course section at the top of the first page, along with the title "PSY 100 Lab Report". As you are writing your report, save your work frequently in a back-up location, and don’t wait until the last minute to print your report. Staple your paper, but please do not put it in a notebook or folder.
* Due Date: **???**, at the beginning of class. Late reports will be penalized.

1. **Introduction: Hypothesis.** Briefly introduce and contrast the two main ways of measuring memory retention: *recall* tests vs. *recognition* tests. Then describe the purpose of this experiment. Based on the background readings, state the main hypothesis of this experiment as a testable prediction. (2 pts.)

2a. **Method: Participants.** Briefly describe the participants in this experiment, including number of participants, gender ratio, and a rough age range. Indicate how they were recruited, and whether they were paid for participating. How did we ensure that students had been exposed to the information tested in this experiment? (2 pts.)

2b. **Method: Variables.** Every experiment involves at least one *independent variable* (a variable that gets manipulated) and at least one *dependent variable* (a variable that gets measured). Name and describe the main independent variable and the two dependent variables in this experiment, and explain why each of them is an independent or dependent variable. *Hint: Look at your data sheet.* (2 pts.)

2c. **Method: Procedure.** Briefly describe the procedures this experiment used to present the stimuli and collect the behavioral responses from the participants. Indicate the approximate length of the testing session. *Hint: if necessary, go back through the experiment again to help you remember the procedure.* (2 pts.)

3a. **Results: Retention Task.** Using the statistical analysis from the pooled data, describe the memory retention results for the individuals who participated in this experiment (including the mean and standard deviation for Number Correct and for Errors for each condition, as well as the *t*-value and *p*-level from the *t*-tests). Refer to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 (which you produced in the Graph Template). (3 pts.)

3b. **Results: Gender.** Using the statistical analysis from the pooled data, describe the difference between females and males in correct performance on the memory retention tasks (including the mean and standard deviation for Number Correct for each condition, as well as the *t*-value and *p*-level from the *t*-tests). Refer to Fig. 3. (2 pts.)

4a. **Discussion: Comparison with Previous Research.** Briefly restate the main findings from this experiment. Did the pooled results support the main hypothesis you stated above? In what ways did the procedures used in our experiment differ from those used by Roediger and DeSoto (2014; 2016)? Compare our pooled results to the Roediger and DeSoto results. Did our experiment show the same basic pattern of results? (3 pts.)

4b. **Discussion: Serial Position.** The Roediger and DeSoto (2014) results showed that the likelihood of recalling a president’s name was related to the historical period in which that president held office. How is this similar to and different from the classic “serial position effect” in our ordinary memory of a list of items? Did we find a similar pattern for the presidents’ names? If so, was it limited to the Recall task, or did it apply to both tasks? Refer to Fig. 6. (2 pts.)

4c. **Discussion: Comparison with Individual Results.** Overall, how similar were your own individual results to the pooled results? Describe how your results are similar or different from the pooled results. If your results were very different, propose an explanation for the difference. Refer to Fig. 4, Fig. 5 and Fig. 7. (2 pts.)