

How to be Fair with Subjects (Rules of Courtesy)

You **MUST** follow a code of behavior that treats each subject with respect and dignity!

Martin's 6 P's:

1. Be **PRESENT**

Don't forget that you had a subject sign up or fail to notify subjects if equipment breaks down or if the experiment is delayed or called off for some reason. Once a subject signs up, you should make every effort to fulfill your obligation to be present.

2. Be **PROMPT**

Subjects' time is valuable also; don't waste it!

3. Be **PREPARED**

Rehearse all phases of the experiment prior to meeting any subjects. It is discourteous to do otherwise, but also ... if you stammer over instructions, tinker with equipment, and generally fumble and mumble your way through the experiment, subjects may become so confused or disgusted that they perform poorly.

4. Be **POLITE**

Unless the experiment calls for it, ask your subjects to do something; don't order them! Make liberal use of the words Please, Thank You, and You're Welcome.

5. Be **PRIVATE**

Treat **ALL** information subjects give you within an experimental context as confidential. Be discreet not only about what the subjects tell you but also about how they perform on experimental tasks. If possible, eliminate subject names from data sheets and use a method that will prevent others from discovering the identity of individual subjects.

6. Be **PROFESSIONAL**

You need not be so somber and stiff that your subjects feel uncomfortable, but do **NOT** be so casual and flippant that you convince your subjects that you don't care about the experiment because they won't care either.

Also, the experiment is not the proper place to make dates, hustle golf partners, sell insurance, or use the experimenter-subject relationship for any purpose other than research!

Don't forget to have each subject sign an **Informed Consent** form. Also, don't forget to **Debrief!**