**Overview**

How do we see the world? It might be more complicated than you’d think! In this Project, you are a psychologist studying how the mind and brain work. You will conduct an experiment that uses the scientific method to answer the question: Is the size of the blind spot variable in humans?

**Materials:**

* Go Cognitive blind spot test [website](http://www.gocognitive.net/sites/default/files/blindspot.v0.93_1_0.swf)
* Ruler

**Directions**

First, do some preliminary research in the Mind Lab in Project Resources. (Focus on the section “Illusion of an Uninterrupted World.”) Based on your research, develop a testable hypothesis about whether or not the size of the blind spot is variable. Include this hypothesis in your final lab report.

In this experiment, you’ll try to answer the question “Is the blind spot variable in humans?” by indirectly measuring the blind spot of at least three people. (One can be you.)

Next, conduct your experiment. Follow the directions in the Experiment document in Project Resources.

Once you finish your experiment, write a lab report. Make sure you include all the sections and information described in the Lab Report Format document in Project Resources. In the discussion section of your report, make sure you address the following:

* Describe the the main contemporary fields of psychology. Explain which fields would perform this kind of experiment.
* Give some background information on the blind spot and the structures of the eye (retina, optic nerve, etc.).
* Define “quantitative variable” and “categorical variable” in your own words. Were your variables quantitative or categorical?
* Define “independent variable” and “dependent variable” in your own words. Which variables were dependent and which were independent?
* Define “sample” and “population” in your own words.
* Do you think you can reliably infer information about the population from your sample? Why or why not?
* Define “operational definition” in your own words. What was your operational definition of “blind spot size”?
* Define “scientific method” in your own words. How did your experiment use the scientific method?

**Criteria**

* Correctly describes and applies basic psychological, scientific and biological terms
* Identifies and explains the elements of scientific method
* Accurately lists contemporary fields of psychology and accurately places experiment within a field
* Communicates ideas clearly
* Meets all requirements of a standard lab report
* Has no major errors in spelling or mechanics
* Expresses information using student’s own words; any direct quotations or paraphrases are identified (using any format)