Method Sections

A *Method section* is an important component an APA-style research report. Your Method section should have several components:

I. Preregistration

1. If your study was preregistered, mention this and provide a link to the preregistration (you won't be able to provide a link to yours because it was not posted to an online service)

Participants

1. Tell how many participants you recruited
    a. Explain how your sample size was determined
2. Describe your procedures *for recruiting* participants
3. Describe any compensation that participants received
4. If you discarded data from any participants, explain why. Be sure to refer to your preregistration! If you did not discard data from any participants, be sure to say that, as well!
5. Provide descriptive statistics for your final sample. At minimum, you should provide the *M* and *SD* for age. You should also provide information on the percent of the sample that was male/female, and the percent of the sample that identified as each racial group.

II. Measures

1. Begin your Method section with a statement that says, "In the following section, we report all variables collected for this study." If you collected extra variables that you're not reporting, note them (e.g., "In addition to the measures listed below, we also collected measures of X, Y, and Z.").
2. Describe all measures that you included in your study, one by one.
3. For EACH measure:
    a. Tell which scale you used, and cite its authors
    b. Describe what the scale measured
    c. Tell how many items the scales contained
    d. Give a few sample items
    e. Describe the response scale (e.g., "Likert type with responses running from strongly disagree [1] to strongly agree [5]")
    f. Tell how the composites were formed (e.g., by averaging items)
    g. Report the internal consistency reliability (alpha)

III. Procedure

1. Describe your procedure in plain English and in enough detail that anyone could replicate your study if they tried.

Sample Method Section

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Method

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Preregistration

  This study's target sample size, included measures, hypotheses, and planned analyses were preregistered on Open Science Foundation (https://osf.io/someurl/).

Participants

  We recruited a total of 232 participants through the psychology subject pool at Southern Methodist University (SMU). Students completed the study in exchange for credit and/or extra credit in their psychology courses at SMU. Per our preregistered plan, we collected data from a minimum of 200 participants. The precise sample size of 232 was determined by the total number of participants we could run in a single semester.

  We did not discard data from any participants. The sample was predominantly (76%) female, with an average age of 19.04 years ($SD = 3.20$). The racial composition of the sample was 72% White, 13% Black, 14% Hispanic, and 1% Asian.

Measures

  In the sections that follow, we report all variables collected for the present study.

  Gender. Participants self-reported their gender as "male" (1) or "female" (0).

  Attachment styles. Participants provided self-report ratings of their attachment styles using the Experiences in Close Relationships – Revised Scale (ECR-R; Fraley et al., 2002). The ECR-R contains 18 items to measure attachment anxiety (e.g., "I oftentimes worry that other people will abandon me;" "My desires to be close with other people sometimes scares them aware") and 18 items to measure attachment avoidance (e.g., "I dislike when other people try to get too close to me;" "I prefer to keep distance in my romantic relationship"). All items were rated on a 5-point Likert scale running from *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (5). Items were averaged together to form separate composites for attachment anxiety ($\alpha = .89$) and avoidance ($\alpha = .82$).

Procedure

  Participants were provided a link to the study website. All participants first answered demographic questions, including their gender. Subsequently, they completed the attachment measure. After completing the study, participants were thanked, debriefed, and compensated.