

Using Incentives in Research

- An incentive must be consistent with the effort of the participants (i.e. non-coercive).
- Extra credit can only be offered as an incentive if all instructors from recruited classes agree to offer extra credit and provide an alternate assignment to students. If all course instructors from recruited classes will not offer extra credit with alternate assignments, extra credit should not be offered as incentives must be offered equally to all participating students.
- The alternate assignment must be comparable to participation in terms of time, effort, stress, and convenience and stated within the consent document. For example, a 5 page paper is not an acceptable alternative to participation in a 4-minute survey.
- Subjects participating in the same study and completing the same tasks should be compensated equitably when appropriate. *
 - * Variation in compensation may occur when it can be justified. For example, it is reasonable that compensation for subject populations in different countries may vary according to cultural customs or if a group in a study is involved in more testing than another, ie control group.
 - When there are different incentives offered for different subject groups in a research protocol, justification will need to be given in the application for different incentives for different groups.
 - All incentives for all groups should be listed on a singular consent form to ensure all participants are fully informed.