

(Continued)

5. How does random assignment allow an experimenter to claim that an independent variable influenced a dependent variable?

A: Random assignment minimizes preexisting differences between people who are in an experiment. Therefore, with these differences minimized, researchers can isolate the effects of the independent variable on the dependent variable.

6. A college registrar did a research project and found the typical 18- to 22-year-old college student is mentally more alert later in the morning than earlier in the morning. Therefore, her college decides not to schedule any classes before 11 a.m. How is this an example of applied research?

A: The college is taking a research finding (that students aren't as mentally alert early in the morning) and then using it to implement a policy in a specific situation.