Procedure for Data Collection

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Instrument Administration

• Participant factors
  – Tired or Sick
    • At the beginning, confirm that the participant is prepared.
      Reschedule if necessary.
  – Boredom
    • Convince participants of the importance of study
    • Keep the data collection within reasonable time constraints
    • Schedule a second time if necessary
  – Language ability
    • Read the instrument if necessary

• Researcher factors
  – Physical appearance: Dress professionally
  – Manner: Be kind, courteous, professional
  – Professionalism
    • Be prompt
    • Have all materials prepared and organized in advance
    • Study the instrument well in order to be able to answer any questions
  – Administration: Follow research protocol exactly

• Environment factors
  – Loud environment: Distracts the participant
    • Find a quiet, comfortable location
  – Frequent distractions
    • Obviously turn off your cell phone as a cue for the participant
    • Ask if there is a better time to reschedule
  – Presence of others: May influence a participants’ responses
    • Try to find a private location
Procedures in an Experiment

- For a successful experimental study, considerable time and thought MUST be spent planning the treatment
  - Read empirical literature on the dependent variables to strengthen the impact of the treatment
- Logistical details:
  - How many weeks will the treatment last?
  - How often will the participants meet for the treatment?
  - How long will each meeting last?
  - Where will the meeting hold?
  - What types of materials will be necessary for the meeting?
  - How many participants can realistically meet in one group?

Objectives Components Rationale Questions for Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Establish participant/ counselor relationship</th>
<th>Introduce the topic of academic honesty</th>
<th>Open relationship is necessary for honest and thoughtful participation</th>
<th>What does academic honesty mean to you?/ Why is academic honesty important?</th>
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<td>Introduce participants</td>
<td>Ask participants to set rules for the group</td>
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<td>Discuss counseling rules</td>
<td>Participants reflect on what academic honesty means to them</td>
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<td>Discuss responses in large group</td>
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<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Establish the importance of academic honesty morally, academically, and for society</th>
<th>Brainstorm reasons why academic honest is important morally</th>
<th>Brainstorming helps participants get actively involved and think of ways that the lesson impacts their daily lives.</th>
<th>Why is it important to be honest in your classes for moral reasons?/ How might society be affected if students continually cheat?/ What are some behaviors you have heard other students do that are dishonest?</th>
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<td>Identify dishonest study practices</td>
<td>Brainstorm reasons why academic honest is important academically</td>
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<td>Brainstorm reasons why academic honest is important for society</td>
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<td>Brainstorm practices that are dishonest and provide reason why</td>
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Procedures in an Experiment

- Plan the procedures in the treatment.
  - Detailed list of procedures must be developed.
  - Word-for-word scripts should be developed.
- For counseling treatments, consider:
  - What is the objective for the day?
  - What activities can be used to help participants be active in the treatment?

Control Groups in Experiments

- The Control Group MUST be exactly identical to the treatment group in every way except that they do not get the treatment.
  - If not carefully controlled, any difference between the treatment and control groups on the dependent variable at the end of the study may be as a result of differences between the treatment and control groups, not because of the treatment.
Procedures in Experiments

- Experiments can be compared to a drama
  - Scripts of dialogue
  - Cast of research assistants
  - Props of materials needed
  - Rehearsals are needed to ensure everything is prepared

Steps in an Experiment

1. Introduction to the Experiment
   - Explain the purpose of the research and instructions
2. Experimental Manipulation: Treatment or Control Group
3. Manipulation Check: Evidence that the manipulation was experienced by the participant as intended
4. Measure the Dependent Variable
5. Debriefing: Experimenter discusses the experiment with the participant

Other Considerations

- The success of an experiment depends on the experimenter’s ability to eliminate or minimize potential biases
  - Double-Blind Technique: Neither the participant nor the researcher is aware of the condition that the participant is in
  - Blind Technique: Information about the treatment condition is withheld from one party in the study
  - Counterbalancing: Reversing the sequence of certain aspects of the study so different groups of subjects experience different sequences to prevent an order effect