

Informed Consent Document

Consent to Participate in Human Subjects Research

Title: Investigations of Evaluative Space Grid Items using Amazon Mechanical Turk (Study A)

Description of the Study: You are invited to participate in this research study being conducted by Dr. Douglas Whitaker of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Mount Saint Vincent University. He is studying the use of survey item types that are alternatives to the widely used standard response scale. These new items may use a grid to record responses or use multiple survey items to instead of a single traditional item. The survey questions in these studies were mostly written for other projects, and the same question will be asked several times using different response scales. The topics of the surveys are general personality traits, online learning, and attitudes about statistics. The long-term goal of this project is to improve the way that attitudes measured using surveys.

Conditions of Participation: You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a member of Amazon's Mechanical Turk platform. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Participation is voluntary, and you may discontinue participation at any time during the survey. Participants must use a computer (rather than a mobile device) to complete the survey.

This survey is expected to take about 15 minutes to complete. After finishing the survey, you will be paid US\$2.56 through the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform – you will be given a code at the end of the survey to enter to ensure you completed the survey. There is NO penalty for not participating. If you discontinue the survey midway through, you will not be compensated – you will not be given the code to enter on the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform. There are no other consequences or penalties for not completing the survey. Survey responses will be anonymous. Nobody, including the researcher, will be able to determine who did or did not participate.

Study Procedures: If you decide to participate in this study, you will be presented with a survey beginning on the next page. This survey will ask you questions about your general personality traits, online learning, and attitudes about statistics. Additional questions about general demographic information and your experience taking the survey will also be asked. No identifying information will be collected – the survey responses will be anonymous. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer. Due to the anonymous nature of the survey, once your responses have been submitted you will not be able to withdraw your data from the study. Completing the survey should take about 15 minutes.

Potential Benefits and Risks: There are no risks for your participation in this research beyond the risks associated with everyday life. Beyond the compensation stated above, there are no direct benefits to you for your participation in this research.

Data Storage and Future Use: Because no identifying information will be collected, the responses are anonymous and cannot be linked with your identity. During this study, the data will be stored on password-protected computers and servers affiliated with Mount Saint Vincent University. After this research study has concluded, the anonymous survey responses will be made publicly available so that other researchers can study them. Any text comments that you make will NOT be included in any public release – only the numeric responses recorded will be shared. These responses are anonymous and cannot be linked to you in any way.

Contact: If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Douglas Whitaker at 902-457-6654 or by email at douglas.whitaker@msvu.ca. This project has been reviewed and received

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clearance from the Research Ethics Board of Mount Saint Vincent University and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any questions about this process or to speak with someone about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact the Research Ethics Coordinator, Brenda Gagne, at 902-457-6350 or by email at brenda.gagne@msvu.ca.

You will receive a copy of this consent form.

Consent Statement

Have you read and understood the procedures described? YES NO

By selecting “yes” I am indicating that I freely agree to participate in this study and know that I can change this answer if I so choose during survey. Otherwise, I am selecting “no”.

Yes: I agree to participate No: I do not agree to participate.

Screening Questions

What is your age? I am 18 years old or older. I am 17 years old or younger.

Are you using a mobile device to complete the survey? Yes No