**Transparent Changes Template Document**

**Why to use this document**

The purpose of this template is to provide a simple structure to follow when it comes time to report the results of preregistered research (see <https://osf.io/zwkqj/> for a checklist of items to include when reporting the results of preregistered work). In general, it is important to follow the pre-specified research and analysis plans as closely as possible, while also making reasonable changes in the face of unexpected challenges that arise during the study. Determining whether or not any given change will affect the diagnostic value of your statistical tests is subject to debate[[1]](#footnote-1), but that determination is only possible at all if the change is disclosed to the reader. This template provides a basic structure for disclosing these differences and should be used on a regular basis when reporting the results of preregistered research.

**How to use this document**

For each change or deviation from your preregistered research plan, state what changed, provide a rationale or justification for making that change, and then attempt to judge whether or not that change affected the conclusions of your study. Realize that others may disagree with that judgement.

**Transparent Changes**

1. Description of change: *Changed sampling location from 50m depth to 70m depth.*
   1. Rationale: *The population of interest was not present at expected site.*
   2. Effect of change on study results: *None expected*.
2. Description of change: *Used $50 gift cards for incentives instead of $20.*
   1. Rationale: *We were unable to obtain pre-specified sample size with lower rewards.*
   2. Effect of change on study results: *None expected, though the population sampling could have been biased between those who were incentivized at $50 but not $20.*
3. Description of change: *Changed analysis from ANOVA to The Kruskal–Wallis test by ranks.*
   1. Rationale for this change: *Collected data did not meet the assumptions of the planned analyses.*
   2. Effect of change on study results: *This more conservative test is not likely to change the main study results. For a complete reporting of pre-specified tests, see https://osf.io/GUID*
4. Description of change:
   1. Rationale:
   2. Effect of change on study results:
5. Etc…

1. As a rule of thumb, if the change was made in light of any knowledge of how it would affect the outcome of the study, the change is likely to invalidate the reported tests. Changes made without knowledge of how they will affect the main outcome of the study are much less likely to affect it in this way. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)