

Narcissism and Social Harmony

Deborah Burris, John Harp, and Leah Sharpe

Eastern Oregon University

Introduction

In this study the authors wanted to see if people could be influenced by reading a paragraph. The basis of the study was that if a person were to read a paragraph which was written from a narcissist perspective, that when finished the person doing the reading would be more likely to pick the narcissistic answers in the Narcissistic Personality Inventory -16 question (NPI-16) test providing that the test was taken shortly after completing the reading. The opposite was hypothesized to be true as well, meaning that when the individual who reads a paragraph written from the perspective of a person who was more altruistic, they would then be less likely to pick the narcissistic answers in the NPI-16 test when taken shortly after the reading. The measure is (1) point for each of the narcissistic answers given. The higher the score, the more likely that the individual portrays narcissistic personality traits.

Methods

Forty undergraduate students participated in a survey using a provided link to the website survey monkey.

After receiving voluntary consent, participants were assigned one of two surveys providing their birth year, either odd or even.

The odd year birth participants read a paragraph containing narcissistic content and the even year birth participants read a paragraph emphasizing social harmony.

After the paragraph was read, participants completed five basic math problems as a distractor task.

Participants were then asked a series of 16 questions using the NPI-16 to measure narcissism.

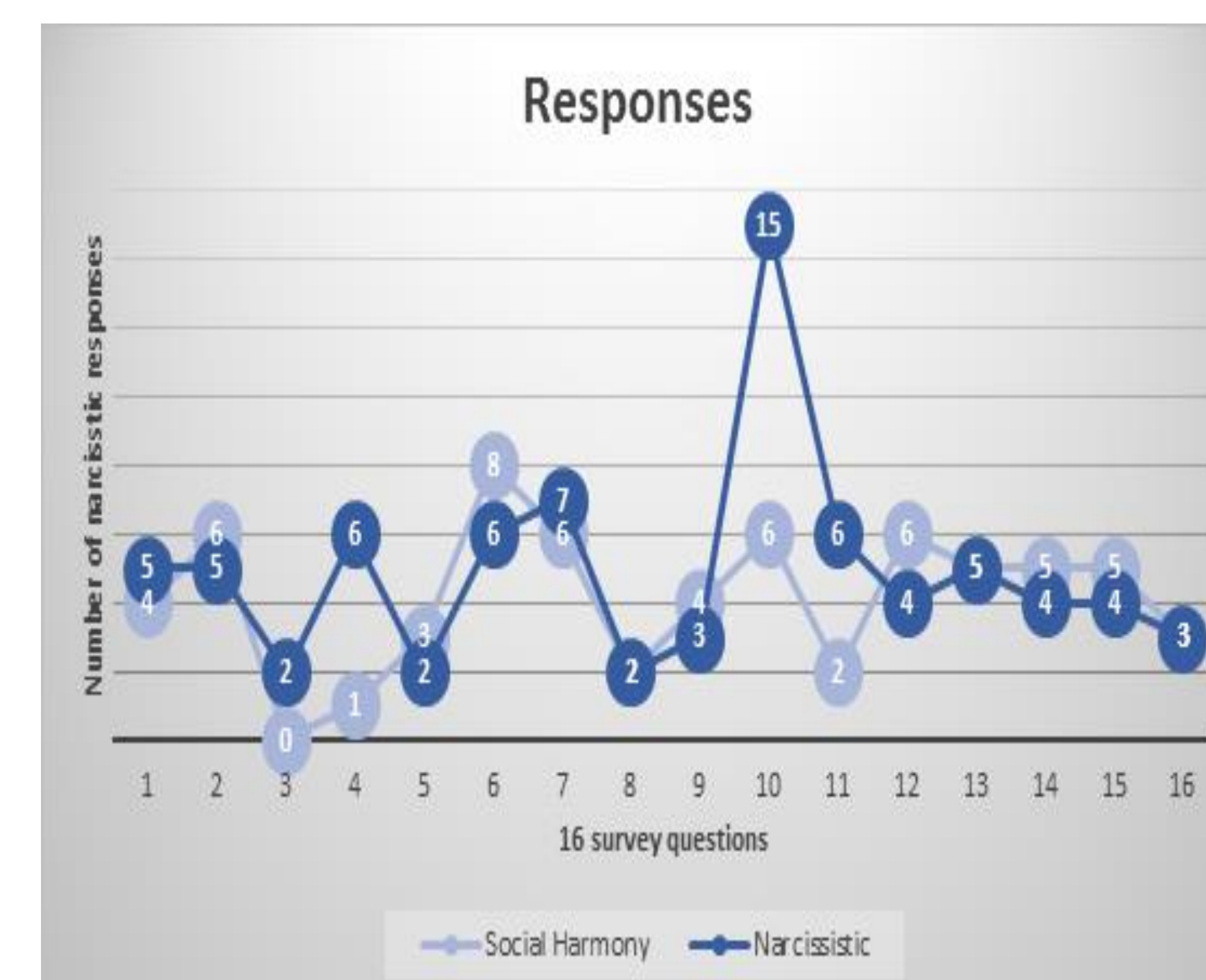
Results

The results of the 40 participants answers, 20 in each group, were totaled based on the narcissistic responses.

A t-test was used to determine if the paragraph read had an effect on the narcissism scale.

As hypothesized, the group who read the narcissistic paragraph responded higher on the narcissism scale than participants who read the social harmony paragraph.

Figure #1



Conclusion

In conclusion, our study showed that participants were influenced by reading the narcissistic paragraph. We believe this to be the first study of its kind to show that paragraph reading can influence narcissistic responses.

The finding of connections between narcissism, and social harmony raises the possibility that students could benefit from increasing their overall knowledge of social harmony as part of their education process.

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