**Self-Other Agreement Project**

First Major Project for Psychology 350

The goal of this project is to learn more about how your impression of your own personality converges (or diverges) with the impressions that other people have of your personality.

There are several steps involved in this project.

* Step 1 (Sept 14 - 16). You will design a web-based questionnaire that can be used to assess a variety of personality attributes (e.g., sociability, shyness).
* Step 2 (Sept 16 - 20). You will ask friends and family members to complete your online survey. Specifically, these people will be rating YOUR personality—what they think about you.
* Step 3 (Sept 21-23). You will download and analyze your data.
* Step 4 (Sept 23-Oct 4). You will write a paper that summarizes your findings.
* Step 5 (Oct 5). Your paper is due in lab.

I’ll elaborate upon each of these steps below, along with the relevant deadlines, the requirements for the project, and how the project with interface with labs.

**Sept 14-16 Lab**

**Design a web-based questionnaire that can be used to assess a variety of personality attributes**

Develop a web-based questionnaire to assess the 28 attributes that we assessed in the first week of labs. (These are listed in the Appendix.) Each attribute should be rated on a 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) scale. I’ve pasted some sample code below that you can use as a template for building the rating scale.

1. Emily is extraverted, enthusiastic <BR><BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v01 VALUE=1> Disagree Strongly <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v01 VALUE=2> Disagree <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v01 VALUE=3> Agree <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v01 VALUE=4> Agree Strongly <BR>

<BR><BR>

2. Emily is critical, quarrelsome <BR><BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v02 VALUE=1> Disagree Strongly <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v02 VALUE=2> Disagree <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v02 VALUE=3> Agree <BR>

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=v02 VALUE=4> Agree Strongly <BR>

<BR><BR>

Please note that I have structured the items to clearly reflect descriptions that people can agree or disagree with concerning Emily. Also, please note that the variable labels should be clear and systematic with respect to *alphanumeric coding* (see lecture notes). Thus, start with v01 and go up through v28 for the variable names. Anything else you add (e.g., who is filling out the survey; see below) should follow accordingly or meaningfully (e.g., v29). You cannot use more than 50 variables.

Also note that the example above is for Emily. Please keep in mind that this project is about *you* and you should use the appropriate name—something that people will understand (i.e., “Steve” instead of “isniffglue23”).

If you want to *add* some additional traits/descriptors, please feel free to do so. But please note that the web system we are using will only allow you to create up to 50 variables.

Your web questionnaire should also contain an item that is designed to allow the rater to indicate his or her relationship to you (e.g., friend, family member). There are a number of ways this can be done. Here is an example using the SELECT tag in HTML. Feel free to copy this and customize it for your purposes.

My relationship to EMILY is as follows: <BR>

<SELECT NAME=v29 SIZE=1>

<OPTION VALUE=0 SELECTED>select an option</OPTION>

<OPTION VALUE='self'>I am Emily</OPTION>

<OPTION VALUE='friend'>I am a friend of Emily</OPTION>

<OPTION VALUE='family'>I am a family member of Emily</OPTION>

</SELECT>

If you choose, however, you can also create a simple textbox for this purpose. (Please note that I’ve listed this as variable name v29. This should work fine for you if you are copying and pasting. But, if you’ve added new items beyond the one’s suggested, make sure this variable name does not conflict with others.)

Additional notes and reminders:

1. As we have noted before, please make sure you use the following <FORM> tag:

<FORM ACTION='http://www.yourpersonality.net/psych350/fall2016/genericsubmit.pl' METHOD=post>

This should NOT be modified in any way! If you use the wrong FORM tag, your data will not be saved.

1. Be sure to include a hidden tag like this that appears near the end of your survey, but *before* the final </FORM> tag

<INPUT TYPE=hidden NAME='username' VALUE='christest1'>

where you combine your alias and the number 1 (e.g., “christest1” in the example). Thus, if your class alias is *coffeecats* then the hidden tag should look like this:

<INPUT TYPE=hidden NAME='username' VALUE='coffeecats1'>

Please note that you should *not* include a space in your alias.

Note: You are appending the number 1 to your alias for this project so that your data for this project are stored in a separate location than your data for your previous assignment.

**By Fri, Sept 16 at 6 pm**

**Submitting the questionnaire to me**

You should test your questionnaire in your web browser at lab by pasting the HTML code into the tryit editor: <http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_headers>

You should be able to view your testing data by going to the data download page and using your alias (with the 1) on the end (the information included in the hidden tag; see above):

**http://www.yourpersonality.net/psych350/fall2016/viewsubmit.pl**

*Please check your survey carefully and make sure all parts of it work*. Also ask your TA to review your code. It is easy to make small mistakes and the best way to catch those is to (a) test your survey a few times and (b) have someone else (e.g., a TA or classmate) review your code.

When the survey is finished, please copy your HTML code and paste it into a plain text MS Word file, as you did with your previous assignment. If you’re copying it from the tryit editor linked above, be sure to copy the CODE (the stuff on the left side), not the rendered/displayed code (right side).

You should save that file as a plain text file with your alias and append the number 1 to the file name. For example, if your alias is coffeecats, then your file name should be coffeecats1.txt. If you alias is snakesandcakes, then your filename should be snakesandcakes1.txt. **Please e-mail me your file at** [**rcfraley@gmail.com**](mailto:rcfraley@gmail.com) **no later than 3:00 on Friday, Sept 16th**.

I will be uploading the files at 3:00pm on Friday, Sept 16. Unfortunately, I’m leaving town later that day and will not have access to the class server again until Sunday.

Once I’ve uploaded your survey to the class website, the URL will be as follows:

http://www.yourpersonality.net/psych350/fall2016/project1/alias1.html

again, where “alias” is your alias. Thus, if your alias is *coffeecats*, then the URL for your survey will be

http://www.yourpersonality.net/psych350/spring2016/project1/coffeecats1.html

**When you’re ready to share your questionnaire with others, you can send them the URL for your survey. Please note that the files will not be uploaded and viewable on the Internet until I’ve uploaded them. Please test your file and make sure it is working BEFORE you start distributing your survey URL to your friends and family. If you need to troubleshoot and fix things, contact me directly rather than the TAs.**

**Sept 16-20**

**Collecting Data**

Use your online questionnaire to collect data from three sources: (a) yourself (you rate yourself), (b) at least one friend or roommate, and (c) at least one family member (e.g., parent, grandparent, sibling). Ask these people if they will be willing to fill out a questionnaire about *your* personality for the purposes of a class project. If they agree to do so, you can send them the URL for your web questionnaire and give them a deadline by which to complete the survey.

I would encourage you to give your friends and family a real (and realistic) deadline so that your respondents do not delay the task in a way that interferes with your ability to complete the project. Moreover, give them some room to be a bit late. In other words, if you actually need the data by Tuesday, tell them you need it by Monday.

Once you’ve collected your data, you can download it via the methods we have discussed in lecture/labs. You will be doing this in lab on Sept 21.

Please attend the lab sections on the week of Sept 21 so you can get advice on how to download the data and how to analyze it. The TAs will be reviewing some examples so that the analytic part of the project is less abstract. If you’re comfortable with the process and wish to do it in Excel, that is fine. But you might find the data easier to work with in SPSS.

I would encourage you to have your data collected no later than Sept 20.

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This week (week of Sept 16-20) we will also make available to you the data that were collected on the **first week of labs** for the “zero acquaintance” exercise. You should examine these data too because these data provide insight into your personality from people who had met you for the first time and knew nothing about you. This is a valuable way to understand the first impression you make on others.

You also rated your own personality traits during that initial session. You will obviously need ratings on yourself. You can use those initial ratings if you wish or you can rate yourself again using your new questionnaire. If you rate yourself again, you will have the opportunity to see how stable your own self-perceptions are. That’s neat stuff.

Note: If you were not yet enrolled in the class during the first week when we collected these ratings, please make a note of that to your TA and in your paper.

**Paper**

**Lab week of Sept 23**

You should begin to write your paper this week. The final version will be due in lab on **Oct 5**. The lab sessions prior to that can be used to consult with your TA, but I also encourage you to meet with your TA before that date too if you want additional assistance.

The objective of your paper is to address the extent to which your perceptions of your personality attributes converge or diverge from the views that other people have of your personality.

I expect you to write a thoughtful and clear paper about the domains in which you found agreement, the domains in which there was disagreement, and a careful discussion of why agreement and disagreement exists. Keep in mind that you have personality ratings of yourself from multiple sources: yourself, friends, family, and fellow classmates (via the zero-acquaintance exercise during the first week of lab). This might be the first time you’ve ever had systematic ratings of your personality from multiple sources; take advantage of it!

Please note that this paper is not something that involves a simple checklist to make sure you’ve “done it right.” Think of this as an essay about your personality and the ways in which people see you. But, along the way, you should definitely make it a point to address the following questions (I guess there is a checklist after all!):

* How would you describe your own personality? Specifically, which attributes would you say best defined you (e.g., attributes with the highest ratings)? Which attributes are *not* characteristic of you (i.e., attributes with the lowest ratings)?
* Which attributes did people agree with you the most? (e.g., you saw yourself as highly extraverted and others did too). Why do you think there was agreement for these attributes? Was this surprising to you or did you expect it?
* Which attributes did people *dis*agree with you the most (e.g., you saw yourself as highly extraverted, but others did not)? Explain.
* *Who* showed the most overall agreement with each other (e.g., average absolute difference as discussed in lecture)? Did others tend to agree with one another more than they agreed with you?
* Were friends and family more “accurate” (i.e., did they agree with you more) than strangers/classmates?

*I strongly encourage you to use some basic analyses (see lecture on Sept 13th) to support your comparisons*. It would be useful to know, for example, what the *average absolute difference* is across your ratings of these attributes and the ratings provided by a friend. And so on.

Please note that, although I’m outlining these questions (and expect you to answer them in your essay), your essay need not be limited to these questions. Be creative and have some fun.

The final paper is due at the start of labs on Oct 5th. The paper should be no longer than 5 pages, double spaced. *There is no minimum page length*. Please make sure that you proof-read the paper carefully. If you question your writing skills, be sure to visit the campus writing center for help; information has been provided in the class syllabus. You should also ask your TA to proofread drafts or outlines. The TAs will be grading your essays, so if you can get feedback on your progress before the due date, that feedback will be super valuable. The paper counts 20% toward your final grade.

**Summary of key dates and deadlines**

* Week of Sept 14th: Design HTML questionnaire in Lab
* Sept 16th 3pm: deadline for e-mailing me your HTML file. I will upload all files to the class webpage at that time. I will not have Internet access between 3:30 pm Sept 16tth and 6 pm Sept18th.
* Sept 16 – Sept 20: Start collecting data from friends and family. Plan on downloading and organizing data in lab on Sept 21.
* Sept 23: You should have all your data and be prepared to analyze it in lab. If not, be prepared to download and analyze what is available at that time, with the intention of obtaining more data as soon as possible.
* Week of Sept 28 and 30: Meet with TAs and get feedback on your paper drafts, outlines, etc.
* Final paper due on Wed Oct 5 at start of lab.

**Appendix**

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| 1 Extraverted, enthusiastic | 15 Morning (vs. evening) person |
| 2 Critical, quarrelsome | 16 Unpredictable (vs. consistent) |
| 3 Dependable, self-disciplined | 17 Musician (vs. not a musician) |
| 4 Anxious, easily upset | 18 Likes big cities (vs. rural/suburban) |
| 5 Open to new experiences, complex | 19 Facially expressive |
| 6 Reserved, quiet | 20 School-spirited |
| 7 Sympathetic, warm | 21 Strong leadership potential |
| 8 Disorganized, careless | 22 Artistic |
| 9 Calm, emotionally stable | 23 Narcissistic, self-focused, entitled |
| 10 Conventional, uncreative | 24 Fashionable/hip/trendy |
| 11 Politically liberal (vs. conservative) | 25 Ticklish |
| 12 Happy, satisfied with life | 26 Low self-esteem |
| 13 Athletic (vs. unathletic) | 27 Spiritual or religious |
| 14 Sensation-seeking | 28 Intelligent, smart |

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