OCAR Paragraph.

The measurement of social networks has become a powerful technique in the social science literature. Often study participants are asked to self-report relationships and friendships within a particular setting. A problem with this method is trying to understand the trustworthiness of the data. Although validity and reliability are an important aspect in the social science realm, no such measures exist in social network analyses. This study aims to create an analogous set of measures for social network data as those that exist in psychometric testing. Creating analogous validity and reliability checks for network data may help ensure data is trustworthy. If this analogous validity method is created for social networks, then researchers can make more informed conclusions regarding outcomes when using social network data.

1. **Opening:** SN data collection has become more frequent in recent literature. Therefore, it is worthy of investigation of its validity in the research world.
   1. Accessibility to better programming techniques has led to this commonality in sn data collection and analyses.
   2. Due to its commonality there needs to be accountability in the network itself.
   3. As this technique becomes more popular in the literature, it has an impact on programs, communities and policy.
   4. Therefore, understanding if the Social Network Data is valid is a concern.
      1. This does not seem to be as highly as a concern in the literature (As far as I can tell right now)
   5. There is no excuse for social network data collectors to make assumptions that the data is good.
2. **Challenge:** We need methods to ensure SN data is meaningful and trustworthy. How can we be sure that the data is trustworthy?
   1. When reading the methods sections of SNA literature, a check on the data never is mentioned.
   2. The social science literature already has a standard practice of reporting reliability to ensure proper research and conclusions are drawn.
      1. Unfortunately, there is no similar measure for this in SNA.
   3. Because there is no standardized system, the validity of results in SNA research may be unclear.
3. **Action**: I will create the analog methods of psychometric data that will fit in the context of network data.
   1. Several different methods to create these analog measures will be tested
   2. In the end, there will be separate measurement techniques created to ensure social network data is valid.
   3. These measures can be used individually or in a composite form to create and overall “trustworthiness” check of collected SN data
   4. To determine the true effects of the network on outcomes, this is an essential step.
   5. This will be tested on 3 years of longitudinal CC network data collected as part of the WTG grant.
4. **Resolution:** If I am able to develop them, then we can generalize it to other networks.
   1. If the action is successfully, then we can develop a measure(s) that is relevant to other researchers.
   2. This Provides a first step towards figuring out validity and reliability of the social network.
   3. On a local level, it will help the development of the CC program as we continue understanding the impact of mentor families on youth outcomes.

One of the most important concepts in the social sciences is the notion that individuals are part of a larger set of related systems. Even the social ecological model emphasizes the importance of the social environment as a pertinent level to predicting determinants of health. One way to approach this set of social systems is through social network analysis (SNA). Social network analysis is the quanti