OCAR Paragraph.

Youth service programs have a vested interest in building positive relationships between youth clients and adults. Having a sense of belonging in a program may promote the intended aspects of the program and encourage positive development. Aspects most important for encouraging belongingness in a program are still unknown. The number & strength of inbound, outbound, and reciprocated relationships are all known to influence relationship quality. Therefore, this study seeks to understand which aspect of youth relationships are most important for building a sense of belonging in a youth service program. We will investigate the types of relationships and whom the relationships are between (i.e. adult to youth vs. youth to youth relationships). By encouraging youth belongingness, increased participation and program effects may be enhanced.

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.

Tarditional Thesis is 5 chaopters

Intro

Lit review

Lay out the need for a validation process

The creation program methhods

Real-use application.

* Explain the friendship connections

Try to create a plan on how to *Discover* the methods

What’s the starting point?

But can’t be too nebulous

Create a list of definitions

Think of a name for your measure

Make a list of what the problems are

Analogs to other measures in other domains (i.e.

Are the actors able to actively and reliably measure their network?

This is a way to look at internal validity

External validity as well: If a kid