

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Class time: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **General instructions**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. This questionnaire packet should take about 45 minutes to complete. Your careful consideration of each story and the questions/items that follow is greatly appreciated!

Please note that participation is strictly voluntary and you may stop at any time. Also note that your responses will be kept strictly confidential. Your name and/or student number will never be used in describing the results- only group data will be presented. When you return the completed questionnaire this cover page will be torn off so that credit for participation can be recorded. Your name will not appear on any other page.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the questionnaire administrator.

## Questions about social issues

### Example and instructions

In this questionnaire, you will read three stories and respond to questions that follow each story. Please read this example before completing the questionnaire. For each story you are asked to think about the main person in the story. Consider the following example:

Bob's favorite uncle recently died and left Bob and his family a lot of money. Bob now must make some decisions about how the money should be used. Bob and his wife have gone to see a financial counselor and received a lot of information about how to best use the money. One suggestion is to pay off some debt. Other suggestions are to develop trust funds for their children to take care of their educational needs. Bob also thinks about how tough life has been for the family—saving and scrimping to live in a good area of town—and would love to have some fun with part of the money. He thinks about a new car, a cruise, or a trip to a resort.

Following each story you will be presented with a number of choices that someone could select in order to deal with the situation. For each choice, you will be asked to rate how good it is using the following scale:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 3 – I am not sure**
- 4 – I believe that this is a BAD choice**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD choice**

The following are examples of choices that you might think about:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Bob should spend the money on himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Bob should invest the money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Bob should pay off debt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Bob should spend the money on his family

Your job is to rate each solution using the scale above. For example, someone might feel that number one is a terrible choice for Bob, that number two is questionable, that number three is a great solution, and that number four is a pretty good choice. Therefore, number one would be rated with a 4, number two with a 5, number three with a 1, and number four with a 2.

Following this, you will be asked to rank the best and worst choices. For instance, one might say that number three is the best reason and number one is the worst reason.

Next, you will be asked to consider a number of reasons someone might consider in making a choice. Specifically, you will be asked to judge each reason on the following scale:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 3 – I am not sure.**
- 4 – I believe that that this is a BAD reason.**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD reason.**

The following are examples of reasons that you might see:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Being out of debt is the only way to begin making and saving money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Bob will feel better about himself as a family provider.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Bob and his family deserve to spend the money to make up for all of the hard times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He has to do something with the money.

Considering Bob's story and remembering that number three was selected as the best action, then someone might feel that number 1 is exactly what he or she was thinking in choosing the solution. Similarly, someone might think that number 2 has a little bit to do with what he or she was thinking in choosing the solution, that number 3 has nothing to do with the choice, and that number 4 is not much better. Following this thinking, number one should be rated a 1, number two a 2, number three with a 4, and number four with a 3 or a 4.

After rating each item you will be asked to rank the best and worst reason. Based on the above it would make sense to rank number one as the best reason and number three or number four as the worst reason.

When you are finished with this example, you may turn to the first story and begin.

Thank you!

## David

Things are looking good for David in his senior year of high school. He has a great group of friends and the girlfriend of his dreams. The academic side looks good too and if he gets the full-tuition scholarship then he will accomplish his goal of becoming the first person from his family to attend college. Without the scholarship David can't afford to go. David looks forward to going to State with his friends and girlfriend who are already planning to go and can swing it financially.

The only problem is nailing down the scholarship. Dave's school counselor has told him that he is right on the line with his test scores and would be a "shoe-in" if he can improve his ACT Math scores. The counselor knows how much the scholarship means to David and has set him up with a tutor. David knows he has one shot left to improve his scores. David is not particularly pleased about all the time he has to spend on math because he has had less time for his friends, particularly his girlfriend. However, he remains focused because he feels all the hard work and sacrifice will be worthwhile in the long run when they are all at State together.

Although his friends and girlfriend understand David's situation, they can't believe that he would pass up the opportunity to go on the senior trip to Washington, D.C. during spring break. His girlfriend asks him to reconsider and warns him that her patience is wearing thin. She tells him that the trip would be a perfect way to spend some much needed quality time together. He really would like to go on the trip and be with his friends. But he knows that if he goes he will have to cut his studying short since the ACT is scheduled for the day after he would get home and David knows that he wouldn't be able to study much on the trip. Taking the test the day after he gets back isn't a good idea either since he might be too tired to do a good job. If that happened then all that work would have been wasted. To top it off, his tutor mentioned that he will be conducting some important drill sessions on the Wednesday and Thursday before the ACT, which she says really makes a difference. If he went on the trip then he would miss these sessions.

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Now please think about these 8 choices that David might make in this situation. Rate each solution as follows:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 3 – I am not sure**
- 4 – I believe that this is a BAD choice**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD choice**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. David should stick to his plan and not go on the trip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. David should not go but be sure to explain to his friends the purposes of what he is doing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. David should not go on the trip, but spend some extra time with friends before they go.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. David should stay and then be sure to spend quality time with everyone after the test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. David should go on the trip and then cram when he gets home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. David should express his resentment to his friends for tempting him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. David should take the break he deserves regardless of his exam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. David should go on the trip and let his friends know he is going for them.

Please rank the BEST three choices by putting the **item** number (1-8) in the blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best choice
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please rank the two WORST choices by putting the **item** number (1-8) in the blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst solution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Please go to the next page

Now please judge the following reasons David might be thinking about while he makes his decision. Use the following scale to rate each reason:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 3 – I am not sure.**
- 4 – I believe that that this is a BAD reason.**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD reason.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. If his friends are true, they will understand why he can't go.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. His decision has the potential to drastically impact his future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He will have many other opportunities to repair his relationships.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. He does not want to lose important friendships.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He cannot violate this commitment that he has made to himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. He does not want to miss out on what is ahead of him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A college education is much more important than a week in Washington.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. He will be more relaxed and focused when he gets back from the trip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Friends come and go but a good education sticks with you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. In the long run, friendships are the most important thing.

Please rank the top three reasons by putting the **item** number (1-11) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please indicate the two worst justifications by indicating the **item** number (1-11) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Please go to the next story

Danielle

Vera, Tanya, and Jake are sitting at the lunch table discussing the mid-term they are about to take in physics next period. The test is sure to be a bear and Vera, Tanya, and Jake are worried about it. Joe and Danielle sit down at the table. Knowing that Joe and Danielle have taken the test earlier in the day, the three already sitting at the table ask Joe and Danielle about the test. Joe and Danielle are not supposed to discuss the test with anyone that has yet taken it. Along with all the other students who have already taken the mid-term, they have promised each other and their teacher to keep quiet about the test until all sections have taken it. Joe, who likes Tanya and wants to try to make a good impression with her, immediately and very clearly details everything that was on the test when asked. Much to Joe's delight, Tanya remarks to Joe, "You're such an angel! I hardly studied because I didn't think that there would be any way that I could do well on the test but now I think I might be able to get an A." Danielle is shocked to hear Joe discuss the test and is very upset with him for doing so. He knew quite well that he wasn't supposed to say anything.

Now please think about these 9 choices that Danielle might make in this situation. Rate each solution as follows:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 3 – I am not sure**
- 4 – I believe that this is a BAD choice**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD choice**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Danielle should say nothing and mind her own business.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Danielle should tell Joe and the others about how upset and disappointed she is, but not tell the instructor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Danielle should talk to Joe and see if he will tell on his own, but should tell if Joe doesn't.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Danielle should tell the instructor without talking to anyone else.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Danielle should keep quiet about the situation and tell the others to do the same.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Danielle should talk to Tanya and tell her that taking advantage of Joe was wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Danielle should send an anonymous note to the instructor about what happened.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Danielle should pretend she didn't see anything wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Danielle should tell the instructor that she heard a rumor that some students received information about the test.

Now please rank the BEST three choices by putting the **item** number (1-9) in the blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best choice
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please rank the two WORST choices by putting the **item** number (1- 9) in the blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst solution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Please go to the next page

Now please judge the following reasons Danielle might be thinking about while she makes her decision. Use the following scale to rate each reason:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD reason.**
- 3 – I am not sure.**
- 4 – I believe that that this is a BAD reason.**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD reason.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Those that received information were not likely to remember it anyway.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It is not fair to those who did not receive any information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. People's grades are at stake.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Others in the class will appreciate what Danielle does.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The instructor has the right to know.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The purpose of the exam is being corrupted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. More problems could be caused for everyone by telling the teacher.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. It is the teacher and the test system that is the problem.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. It might appear to others that she is telling for self-serving and revengeful reasons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. It won't help anything to get involved.

Please rank the top three reasons by putting the **item** number (1-10) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please indicate the two worst justifications by indicating the **item** number (1-10) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Please go to the next story

Janie

Janie, a freshman theater major, was asked to play the lead role in her department's upcoming spring production. A freshman has never been chosen to play the lead in a play; therefore, Janie was surprised at the opportunity. This part, Janie realized, could have an incredible impact on her school career as an actress and maybe beyond! However, after the first few rehearsals, she realized that her views and the views of the person she will be playing are really different. Janie realized that the subject matter in the play and the actions of her character go against many of her own values and beliefs. Janie talked with her best friend about her concerns. He stated that if she quits the play the department would not take her seriously. Janie knows the importance of this opportunity. She has been told that if she turns this down, she will not be chosen to play the lead in any upcoming production. However, she has always taken pride in her beliefs and in the examples that she has set, and if she plays this role, she will promote behaviors and values that she feels are very wrong.

Now please think about these 8 choices that Janie might make in this situation. Rate each solution as follows:

- 1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 2 – I believe that this is a GOOD choice**
- 3 – I am not sure**
- 4 – I believe that this is a BAD choice**
- 5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD choice**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Janie should step down from the role after explaining to everyone her reasons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Janie should play the part but make sure everyone knows of her true beliefs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Janie should do what her parents think is best.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Janie should talk to the director and request another part.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Before she decides, Janie should think further how her decision would impact her future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Janie should consider what would have the most impact on her friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Janie should see if some changes could be made to the script.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A part in the play is an opportunity she can't pass up.

Please rank the top three choices by indicating the **item** number (1-8) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best solution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please indicate the two worst choices by indicating the **item** number (1-8) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst solution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Please go to the next page

Now please judge the following reasons Janie might be thinking about while she makes her decision. Use the following scale to rate each reason:

**1 – I strongly believe that this is a GOOD reason.**

**2 – I believe that this is a GOOD reason.**

**3 – I am not sure.**

**4 – I believe that that this is a BAD reason.**

**5 – I strongly believe that this is a BAD reason.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. It's just acting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It is a great opportunity that could have an impact on her career.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. It would compromise her values and beliefs, which would make her unhappy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. She would not be successful in the play if she does not have confidence in the role.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. She will be better off in the long run if she doesn't compromise her beliefs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. She must believe that others know what's best for her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Similar issues are likely to happen again so she has to figure out a way of dealing with them now.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The part will be played by someone else anyway.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. By playing the part now, Janie may be able to argue for better plays later.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. By standing up for her beliefs, Janie strengthens them through sacrifice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Beliefs come and go, but opportunities like this are vary rare.

Now please rank the top three reasons by putting the **item** number (1-11) in the appropriate Blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Best reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> best
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> best

Please indicate the two worst justifications by indicating the **item** number (1-11) in the appropriate blank:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worst reason
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> worst

Thank you!