

Preparing for the Campus Expression Survey

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Spring 2020



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The Plan

The Approach

The Reflection

IRB

- Learn how to conduct research in an ethical manner that protects the participant's privacy
- Achieve through CITI training programs and a UMN training program

Purpose

- Understand whether or not students feel as though they can express themselves
- Understand the theory and practice of ethical research with human subjects
- Experimental Design
 - Administer a survey
 - Determine if it fits our research goals
 - Establish and foster communication with faculty for coordination and distribution of the survey
- Understand and apply appropriate analysis methods
- Communicate complicated research results

Big Group Discussion

- Questions from the Heterodox survey were evaluated and reinterpreted so they would meet the criteria set forth by the Heterodox academy and fulfill our goals for the project

Small Group Discussion

- Learning Qualtrics
 - Edited questions for grammar and information
 - Made survey function correctly
 - Tested Survey
- IRB Logistics
- Communicated with CLI staff

Challenges

- COVID-19
 - Learned how to adapt to online collaboration via Zoom
 - We were able to Beta test it through two CLI classes
- Big & Small groups
 - Qualtrics: had to fix the grammatical and technical issues with the survey
- IRB
 - Had to revised the consent form to match our survey

Accomplishments

- Gained:
 - Knowledge of the IRB process
 - Understanding of challenges that come with designing and distributing a survey
 - Learned how to meet deadlines
 - Found alternative methods to carry out a task when the original did not go as planned
 - Collaborating with group members to navigate through setbacks
- Survey
 - In the process of administering
 - Beta tested
 - provided Instruction sheets that participants will be able to utilize when they take the survey

Background:

Goal: Develop an understanding of how to conduct human subjects research through an exploration of student comfort levels of self expression on a college campus.

Heterodoxy means deviation from accepted or orthodox standards or beliefs. Evidence suggests that heterodox ideas allow for students to more freely express themselves and overcome their own confirmation bias on college campuses. This results in more growth of students when exposed to ideological diversity from other students expressing their opinions.

It is hoped that our research provide data useful for promoting a campus where a variety of ideas are accepted to provide students with their optimal learning and growing environment.

References:

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- Freiman, C., (2018, August 8). Why free speech is central to universities' mission. [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <https://heterodoxacademy.org/mission-universities-free-speech/>
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