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Favorite Proposals & Final Synthesis

I narrowed down my favorite proposals to Robin’s untitled paper and Grace’s “Post-discussion Notes & Proposal”. In Robin’s paper, I liked how she included the positive vs. negative wording of our survey questions. It’s very important we that we don’t come off as too intrusive and offensive. This could skew our data because the participants could get defensive in their answering. Grace’s point about where we conduct our survey is also important, as I mentioned as well in my proposal and as we discussed in class. By conducting our survey in place such as a library or a sporting event, we widen our demographics, thus giving us a more accurate representation of the population of Census Tract 505. Another thing Grace mentioned was the sampling we choose. By asking every 10th person, we are less likely to be biased when approaching possible participants.

When it comes to the actual survey questions, we all agreed that a Likert scale was the approach to take. It leaves less room for individual interpretation and the answers are straight forward. I liked Robin’s questions the most because of their formatting. Asking the question and giving 2 “I agree” or “I disagree” statements would be easiest and the most clear way to collect our data.

I’m pasting some of her questions below because I feel they are the most direct and effective questions for our research:

* Have you ever felt unsafe on your own street?
  + I have felt unsafe on my own street.
  + I feel safe on my own street.
* Would you feel comfortable leaving your door unlocked at night?
  + I feel comfortable leaving my door unlocked at night.
  + I do not feel comfortable leaving my door unlocked at night.
* Are you doing something that is physically active for at least 30 minutes everyday?
  + I am physically active for at least 30 minutes everyday.
  + I am not physically active for at least 30 minutes everyday.
* Are basic needs such as shelter,food, and clothing available to you?
  + My basic needs such as shelter, food, and clothing are available to me.
  + My basic needs such as shelter, food and clothing are not available to me.
* Do you feel like there’s currently a tangible effort to better the community?
  + There is a noticeable effort to better the community.
  + There is not a noticeable effort to better the community.
* Do you have at least one person you can confide in or vent to if needed?
  + I have at least one person I can confide in or vent to if I needed.
  + I do not have at least one person I can confide in or vent to if I need.

These questions survey both mental and physical well-being, while also gaining insight into the views of the community. The only thing I would change would be the wording to some of these questions, such as changing “Have you ever felt unsafe on your own street?” to “Do you feel comfortable when walking down your street?” just to give it a more neutral, less aggressive tone.

By keeping our survey to a one page, Likert style approach and conducting it at a diverse, populated event, I believe we can successfully collect the data we are looking for.