

EXAMPLES OF BAD QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS OF HOW TO FIX THEM!

Double-Barreled question:

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the childcare program.

Incorrect:

I feel welcomed by staff and other youth at the center

Correction:

I feel welcomed by staff at the center

I feel welcomed by other youth at the center

"

Biased/leading question

Incorrect:

Community organizing is hard. Do leadership trainings help you feel prepared for community organizing?

Much more prepared

Somewhat more prepared

Slightly more prepared

Not more prepared

Correct:

The leadership trainings prepare me for community organizing.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

"

Double-Negative

Incorrect

Does it seem impossible to you that the moon landing never happened?

Very possible

Possible

Impossible

Very impossible

Correct

Does it seem possible to you that the moon landing never happened?

Very possible

Possible

Impossible

Very impossible

CORRECTING SURVEYS

The following are some suggestions of how to fix the problems of the survey questions found on the prior page.

1. **Problem:** Biased/Leading

Solution:

Have you seen the movie *Gone with the Wind*?

Yes No

2. **Problem:** Double Barreled

Solution:

In your opinion, how would you rate the speed of your work?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

In your opinion, how would you rate the accuracy of your work?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

3. **Problem:** Categories are not Mutually exclusive

Solution:

Did you first hear about the bombing:

___ from a friend

___ from a relative

___ from a media source

4. **Problem:** Double Negative

Solution:

How do you feel about the following statement? We should reduce military spending.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. **Problem:** Categories are not Exhaustive

Solution:

People grow up in all types of families. What type of family did you grow up in?

___ two biological parents

___ one biological parent & a step parent

___ mom as a single parent

___ dad as a single parent

___ with a relative other than my biological parents

___ in foster care

___ with adoptive parent(s)

6. **Problem:** Double Barreled

Solution:

Which media source do you rely on most to get information about current events involving the nation?

radio Newspapers Magazines Internet

Which media source do you rely on most to get information about current events involving the world?

radio Newspapers Magazines Internet

7. **Problem:** Ambiguous

Solution:

In order to make housing affordable, is it acceptable to build housing whose buildings hold more than one family?

Strongly agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree