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

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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

EVALUATING SURVEYS

The following are examples of bad survey questions. Identify one error in each question (e.g., double-barreled) and think of a way to fix the errors. (Answers are given on the next page.)

| | | | Gone with the Ween this movie? | <i>ind</i> , than any | other motion |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Yes | No | | | | |
| 2. In your opi | inion, how wou | ıld you rate th | e speed and accu | racy of your | work? |
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | | |
| 3. Did you fin | rst hear about t | he bombing: | | | |
| from a | a friend or rela a newspaper the television o | | from y at work or electronic med | rk | |
| 4. How do yo spending. | ou feel about th | e following sta | atement? We sh | ould not redu | ice military |
| Strongly agree | e Agree | Disagree | Strongly disag | gree | |
| 5. People grovin? | w up in all diffe | erent types of | families. What t | type of family | did you grow up |
| Mom : | | t _Both Mom a | Dad as a singl nd Dad | e parent | |
| 6. Where do gand the world | | r all of your in | formation about | current even | ts in the nation |
| radio | Nev | wspapers | Magazines | in | ternet |
| Strongly Agree | n single-family Undecided 2 | Disag | | Strongly Agree | _ |

CORRECTING SURVEYS

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

| Solution: | : Blased/Leading | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Have you seen t | the movie <i>Gone</i> | with the V | Vind? | | | |
| Yes No |) | | | | | |
| 2. Problem: [Solution: | Double Barreled | | | | | |
| | how would you | ı rate the s | peed of your wor | k? | | |
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | | | |
| In your o | pinion, how wo | uld you rat | e the accuracy of | your work? | | |
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | | | |
| Solution: Did you first hea from a frie from a rela from a me 4. Problem: Description: How do you feel spending. | end ative dia source Double Negative | | ment? We should | d reduce military | | |
| Strongly agree | Agre | ee | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | | |
| two biologi one biologi mom as a dad as a s | in all types of facal parents cal parent & a s single parent ingle parent tive other than are | amilies. W | hat type of family | v did you grow up in? | | |

| 6. Problem: Double BarreledSolution:Which media source do you rely on most to get information about current events involving the nation? | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| radio | Newspapers | Magazine | s1 | Internet | | | | |
| Which media source do you rely on most to get information about current events involving the world? | | | | | | | | |
| radio | Newspapers | Magazine | s1 | 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 | | | | |