

Effects of Differential Priming on Mood

Method

Participants

Nineteen students enrolled in a graduate program in clinical psychology at a private religious university participated in the experiment. One student, a male, did not provide complete response data and was deleted from the study resulting in a total of 18 students completing the activity. Nine of the students were female (50%). Twelve of the students were Caucasian (67%), 5 of the students were African-American (28%), and 1 student as Asian-American (5%). The students ranged in age from 24 to 38 with an average age of 30.3 years.

Procedures

The students were randomly assigned to two groups resulting in two groups, each containing 9 participants. Group 1 had 5 female participants and group 2 had 5 male participants after random assignment. Each group was asked to leave the room while the other was instructed in a priming condition. Group 1 was told to write down all of the positive events that they either experienced or witnessed in the prior 3 months on a sheet of paper when instructed to begin writing. Group 2 was told to write down all of the negative events that they either experienced or witnessed in the prior 3 months on a sheet of paper when instructed to begin writing. Both groups were told that no one else would see the events they recorded. The groups were brought back together and then asked to begin writing until told to stop. They were given 5 minutes to record the events. After 5 minutes had passed, both groups were told in a combined setting to stop writing and to rate their current mood on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1=completely negative, 5=neutral, and 10 = completely positive. They were then asked record their group number, mood rating, and number of different events that they had written down, and gender on a scrap paper and pass that in. No identifying information was recording on the scrap paper.

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Results

Table 1

Different Event Priming & Gender Impact on Mood (N=18)

	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	df	P-value
Positive Events	7.11	1.17	2.26*	16	.038
Negative Events	5.44	1.88			
Males	5.78	1.39	-1.24	16	.234
Females	6.78	1.99			

*Significant at .05 level.

Table 2

Correlation between Mood and Number of Priming Events

	Correlation (r)	p-value
Total Sample	.238	.342
Positive Events	.674*	.047
Negative Events	-.495	.175

*Significant at .05 level.

Table 3

Correlation between Mood and Age

	Correlation (r)	p-value
Total Sample	-.653**	.003

*Significant at .05 level.

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Data Analysis Exercise

Write the Results and Discussion Section for this Paper based on the information presented in the instruction paper.

Although ordinarily you would need to use references to elaborate on your comments in the discussion section, for this exercise, your discussion can be limited to describing the meaning of the results. What do they tell us about the potential effects on thinking about positive or negative events on mood? What do they say about the effects of age on mood? Also provide any comments you can generate about the limitations of the study or questions for further research. Your Results section should make reference to the results table presented above using proper APA style. The entire results and discussion section should be no more than 3-5 double spaced pages.

Be sure to create a title page with your name as the author. Do not create an abstract, introduction, or reference section unless you cite an external sources as part of your results or discussion section.