

Research tool asks participants about their emotional state

IRBs can use it to assess study risk

Elana Newman, PhD, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Tulsa, OK, has helped to develop this brief questionnaire to assess a research participant's emotional experience during a study that might cause subjects some distress.

Here are questions listed in the Reactions to Research Participation Questionnaire, which Newman openly shares.

I. From the list below, please rank the top three reasons why you decided to participate.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ I was curious | ☐ Thought it might improve my access to health care |
| ☐ To help others | ☐ Felt I had to |
| ☐ To help myself | ☐ For the money |
| ☐ I don't know | ☐ I didn't want to say no |
| ☐ Other (Please explain) | |

II. The following questions deal with your reactions to participating in this study. Please circle the number that best describes your response (1 = Strongly disagree/no, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral/maybe, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree/yes).

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I gained something positive from participating. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Knowing what I know now, I would participate in this study if given the opportunity. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. The research raised emotional issues for me that I had not expected. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I gained insight about my experiences through research participation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. The research made me think about things I didn't want to think about. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. I found the questions too personal. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. I found participating in this study personally meaningful. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I believe this study's results will be useful to others. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. I trust that my replies will be kept private. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I experienced intense emotions during the research session and/or parts of the study. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. I think this research is for a good cause. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. I was treated with respect and dignity. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. I found participating beneficial to me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. I was glad to be asked to participate. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. I like the idea that I contributed to science. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16. I was emotional during the research session. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. I felt like I could stop participating at any time. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. I found participating boring. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19. The study procedures took too long. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20. Participating in this study was inconvenient for me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21. Participation was a choice I freely made. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22. Had I known in advance what participating would be like I still would have agreed to participate. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 23. I understood the consent form. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |