# 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 possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened? (22%)

Very possible	Possible
Impossible	Very impossible

Correct

Do you doubt that the Holocaust actually happened or not? (9%)

Very possible	Possible
Impossible	Very impossible

# **EVALUATING SURVEYS**

The following are additional examples of bad survey questions. As a group, apply our class discussion, evaluating each question and its response choices to identify one error in each question (ie. double barreled). Explain the problem that your group identifies in each question and propose an alternative that solves the problem.

1. More people have attended the movie, *Gone with the Wind*, than any other motion picture produced this century. Have you seen this movie?

Yes No

2. In your opinion, how would you rate the speed and accuracy of your work?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

3. Did you first hear about the bombing:

from a friend or relative	from your spouse
from a newspaper	at work
from the television or radio or o	other electronic media

4. How do you feel about the following statement? We should not reduce military spending.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

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

\_\_\_\_\_Mom as single parent \_\_\_\_\_Dad as a single parent \_\_\_\_\_Both Mom and Dad

6. Where do you get most or all of your information about current events in the nation and the world?

\_\_radio \_\_Newspapers \_\_Magazines \_\_internet

7. Higher than single-family density is acceptable in order to make housing affordable.StronglyUndecidedDisagreeAgreeAgreeAgree12345

# **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
37 3	5	5	5, 5

# 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