

# 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 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



## 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