An Examination of Common Strategies to Improve Intergroup Relations and Minority Group Members’ Perceptions of Group Social Standing and Individual Power

Marie Carroll, B.S. & Amy Hackney, Ph.D.

HYPOTHESES

H1: It is hypothesized that the induction of empathy compared to perspective taking and objectivity as intergroup relation strategies will decrease majority group members’ perceptions of group social standing in society when they engage in intergroup interactions with majority group members.

H2: It is hypothesized that minority group members perceived individual-level power will decrease based on the induction of empathy compared to perspective taking and objectivity as intergroup relation strategies in interactions with majority group members.

H3: It is hypothesized that minority group members perceived interpersonal positivity will decrease based on the induction of empathy compared to perspective taking and objectivity as intergroup relation strategies in interactions with majority group members.

H4: It is hypothesized that minority group members’ pair interactions with majority group members will be perceived as less balanced based upon the induction of empathy compared to perspective taking and objectivity as intergroup relation strategies.

EMPATHIC SCRIPT (Batson et al., 1997): We have found that people are better able to answer these questions if, during the discussion, they try to imagine how the other participant feels about the events and experiences that he/she describes and to imagine how these events and experiences have affected his/her life. Try to feel the full impact of the experiences that he/she has had and how he/she feels as a result.

PERSPECTIVE TAKING SCRIPT (Vorauer & Sucharyna, 2013): We have found that people are better able to answer these questions if they try to take the other participant’s perspective during the discussion. So, please concentrate on trying to get inside the other participant’s head and on looking at the discussion through his/her eyes. That is, imagine as clearly and vividly as possible what your reactions would be if you were the other participant, taking into account everything that you know about him/her and trying to adopt his/her own way of looking at things.

OBJECTIVE CONTROL SCRIPT (Batson et al., 1997): We have found that people are better able to answer these questions if they try to take an objective perspective toward the other participant during the discussion. Try not to get caught up in how he/she feels. Just remain objective and detached.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
This project is supported by a Georgia Southern University College of Graduate Studies Graduate Student Professional Development Research Grant.

CONTACTS:
Marie Carroll, rc04970@georgiasouthern.edu
Dr. Amy Hackney, ahackney@georgiasouthern.edu