**Data Collection Project**

***Support Document: Discussion Section***

*Instructions: This document is meant to support you as you write the Discussion Section of the Data Collection Project. Filling this out is not mandatory.*

* *You may find it helpful to make a copy and answer the questions below (in the boxes).*
* *You may find it helpful to look at these questions as you write on a different document.*
* *You may decide to write the introduction first and check back here when you are done.*
1. **Let’s summarize what you have so far. Look back to your previous steps if necessary.**

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| **Population:**  |
| **Sampling Frame:**  |
| **Sample:**  |

1. **A big reason why your results might not generalize to your population is if bias and/or error affected your sample and your data.**

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| **Reflect on bias** |
| What were the three types of potential bias you anticipated in your methods section? |

**Do you think you were able to minimize each one? What steps did you take to minimize them? Or were they unavoidable? Was there something additional you could have done to minimize bias? (Remember, it’s not “wrong” to have bias in your results, it’s wrong if you don’t acknowledge it!)**

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**Remember that not all error comes from bias. What other sources of error might there be in your results?**

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1. **After reflecting on bias and error in your study, go back to your intended population and justify the extent to which you can generalize your results to apply to the entire population.**

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| **The population I can generalize to is...** |
| **because….** |

1. **Revisions?**

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| \*Did you have to adjust your sample size at all? If so, why? |
| \*Did you have to adjust what you called a “success” for your proportions question? If so, why? |
| \*Did you modify your data collection method that you described in “Methods?” If so, why? |
| \*Were there any other revisions you had to make to your plan? If so, why? |
| \*If the answer is no, you do not need to answer these questions. |

**D. Reflections - What have you learned from your data?**

**Were your initial predictions for your results accurate?**

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**Did anything in the data surprise you?**

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**What effect might outliers have had on your data?**

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**What might you do differently if you could do it all again?**

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**What further questions does this raise? What might you or another researcher investigate next?**

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