

Task 2: Evaluation Question

Gretchen Gregor

Old Dominion University

Researching through basic information from 4-H and general knowledge about the program, both as a participant and staff member, to create possible evaluation questions without bias proved to be harder than anticipated. Creating questions broad enough that could be answered with a simple set of questions was another bump in the road to creating the questions. Working through the process of creating the evaluation questions in class, with our peers, as well as figuring out where to begin on our own made the process a bit easier to tackle.

Draft Research Question

Two aspects of the 4-H have always been intriguing; one being the C.I.T. (Counselor in Training) and counselor training effectiveness, two being how the funds that are provided to the program as well as dues collected from all participating campers and counselors are used. These confounding thoughts that had both weighed on my mind for years as well as aren't very well described in any literature I could find seemed to be the avenues worth taking in this class. The first drafted question read: "How effective is the C.I.T. (counselor in training) and counselor training in preparing the adolescents for their leadership roles in the program?". The second drafted question read: "How effectively are the funds that are provided to the agency through funding and dues from participants being used in conjunction to agency rules?". The drafted questions seemed as though they were accurate beginning points for evaluation questions.

Peer-Evaluation

The peer review portion of this task was the most enlightening thus far in this process. Having other students comment on your own work when and talk through things that they might see differently was extremely helpful. Peer review for question

one from both peers suggested broadening the scope of the question to not only how effective the program is at preparing the adolescents for their roles within the program but also out in their everyday lives. The peer review suggestions for the second question both agreed that the question should incorporate how effectively are the funds provided to the agency at bettering the lives of the individuals involved in the program. After reading through feedback from both peers, I then realized where each question needed a bit of work.

Plan Changes

The first question discusses about how effective training was in preparing the adolescents for their leadership roles within the program. Incorporating the suggested revisions into the question the question now reads, “How effective is the C.I.T. (counselor in training) and counselor training in preparing the adolescents for their leadership roles within the program, but also in their everyday lives?” The second question describes how effective are the funds provided to the agency through their funding and dues at being used to agency rules. The peer review led to two different variations based on relatively the same suggestions. First, “How effective are the funds provided through funding and participants’ dues at bettering the lives of the individuals involved in the program?” Another suggested revision stated, “Who is impacted through the different funding and dues and how does the funding help participants within the program?” The suggestions provided from the peers who evaluated these questions helped narrow down the specific issues within each drafted evaluation question.

Final Research

Making the process of developing the evaluation question a multi-step process made it much easier to figure out how to truly break down program to find an evaluation question. The peer review was another part of that process. After reading through the suggested changes to my original drafted evaluation question and the example revised questions it was made clearer on how the final evaluation question should look. Based on revisions and suggestions my final research question reads: “How effective is the C.I.T. (Counselor in Training) and counselor training in preparing the adolescent program participants for their leaderships in the program, as well as their everyday lives?” I believe that this question will be a perfect combination of research and personal contact with people inside the agency to find what I am looking for.