



Concept

Construct: Civic Education

- Civic Values
- Civic Motives
- Civic Skills



Operationalizations


- Coding Journal Entries for Civic Understanding
- Observing Student's Behavior at Civic Tasks (e.g., conducting a meeting)
- Agency Personnel Ratings Student's Skills at Civic Tasks



Domain Sampling

- Need clear definition of the domain
- Need to obtain a representative sample
- Need to evaluate the sample of the domain

A scale is nothing more
than a structured interview
on paper





Characteristics of Good Scales

- Temporal Consistency (reliable)
- Internal Consistency (coherence)
- Validity (meaningfulness)



Use of Scales

- **Independent Variable** (e.g., process evaluation, quality control, manipulation check)
- **Moderator Variable** (e.g., under what conditions, for what types of students)
- **Mediating Variable** (e.g., intervening variables)
- **Dependent Variable** (e.g., what outcomes)



Options

- Use an existing scale
- Modify an existing scale
- Develop a new scale



Developing An Original Scale

- Takes a large amount of time and resources
- Requires knowledge of scale development procedures
- Runs the risk that the result may not be a good scale



Clarity of Construct

- Review Literature for Existing Theory and Research
- Conduct Focus Group and Structured Interviews
- Establish Good Theoretical Statement(s)



Creating A Scale

- Multiple Item Indicators Are Usually Superior
- Debate the Details
- Worry About Format
- Informal Review by Others
- Pilot Test (Debrief)
- Check Coefficient Alpha
- Revise and revise and revise and . . .