Sociology Mrs. Scherer

Unit I: Scientific Method

“Helping Experiment”

**Rationale:**

You will experience and explore the challenge of creating knowledge about social life through an important research method used by sociologists: experiments. You can also work with the scientific process, the steps through which sociologists and other scientists conduct their investigations. This experiment explores whether attachments between people affect whether help is offered. Two people are attached when they like each other or when they have affection for each other. Sociologists consider attachments crucial for social life and have explored their importance in many areas of social behavior, such as conversion to religious groups and deviant behavior.

**Ask a Question:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Research Existing Sources**: Not applicable for this experiment

**Formulate a Hypothesis:**

**Design and Conduct the Experiment:**

1. Decide on some objects to be dropped, such as books, notebooks coins, or whatever, several or more items should be dropped.
2. Drop the objects in front of a stranger as the stranger passes by. Do so in a way that appears natural.
3. Record whether the stranger helps you pick up the dropped items.
4. Drops the same objects in front of a friend. Do so in a way that appears natural.
5. Record whether your friend helps you pick up the dropped items.
6. Bring your results to class to be combined with the results from your classmates.

**Results:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Helped | Friend | Stranger |
| YES |  |  |
| NO |  |  |

Stop here and bring gathered data to class on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Scherer

1. Examine your results. Were friends more or less likely to help than strangers?

Draw Conclusions:

What conclusions do you draw about the importance of attachments for helping? Discuss how the results support your conclusions.

After hearing everyone’s conclusions, evaluate how you and your classmates conducted the experiment. Discuss how the conduct of the experiment could be improved.