

## Investing in goals - happiness with costs eliminated (#9020)

### Author(s)

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### 1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

### 2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

If, as we propose, people prefer to shift resources from means to goals, when costs associated with means are reduced or eliminated, people should also be happier, compared to when equivalent costs associated with goals are reduced or eliminated. Therefore, we predict that people will anticipate being happier when costs associated with means are eliminated

### 3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Participants will indicate how happy they would be if a cost associated with a goal were eliminated and a cost associated with a means were eliminated. Participants will respond using seven-point scales for each.

### 4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Three between-subjects scenarios (replicates to show robustness of the phenomenon)  
Two within-subjects factors (cost of goal eliminated vs. cost of means eliminated)

### 5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Mixed ANOVA with scenario as the between-subjects factor and cost eliminated as a within-subjects factor. We predict a main effect of cost eliminated. Participants will indicate that they would be happier if costs associated with means were eliminated, rather than if costs associated with goals were eliminated.

### 6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will not exclude any observations.

### 7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will open a HIT on MTurk for 300 participants total (targeting 100 per between-subjects scenario).

### 8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)