Life stories, self-concept, and attachment (#26916)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Main hypothesis
There will be an interaction between group and time such that participants who write about chapters in their own and their parents' life stories will increase in state self-esteem from time 1 to time 2, whereas this will not be the case for participants who write about famous persons. We expect no significant interactions for self-concept clarity and mood.

Secondary hypotheses
1. Higher scores on the admiration subscale will be related to more positive and less negative ratings of personal life stories (on all four characteristics)
2. Higher scores on the rivalry subscale will be related to less positive and more negative ratings of parents life stories and famous persons (on all four characteristics)
3. Higher scores on parent attachment will be related to more positive and less negative personal and parents' life stories.
4. Personal life stories will be more positive and less negative than parents' life stories
5. More positive and less negative personal and parents' life stories will be related to higher self-esteem, higher self-concept clarity, more positive mood and less negative mood

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
For primary analyses:
A measure of state self-esteem based on Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, previously validated in Steiner et al (in press)
For secondary analyses:
Self-rating of chapters on emotional tone and self-event connections
A state version of the positive and negative affect schedule
A state version of the self-concept clarity scale
The narcissistic admiration and rivalry questionnaire
The inventory of parent attachment

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
3 conditions: 1) Writing about 4 chapters in own life story, 2) writing about 4 chapters in the life story of the parents they feel closest to, and 3) writing about 4 famous persons.
Before and after the manipulation, participants complete measures of self-esteem, self-concept clarity and mood

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Primary analyses
To test the main hypothesis we will use 2-way mixed ANOVAs with group as the between subjects variable and time as the within subjects variable. Self-esteem, self-concept clarity and mood will be dependent variables. We will use 3 follow-up within subjects t-tests to examine whether participants in the personal and parents' life stories conditions increase in self-esteem from time 1 to time 2, whereas this is not the case for participants in the famous persons condition.

Secondary analyses
To examine relations between narcissism and life stories, we will use Pearson's correlations
To examine relations between attachment and life stories, we will use Pearson's correlations
To compare personal and parents' life stories, we will use between subjects t-tests with person as grouping variable and the life story measures as dependent variables
To examine relations between state measures of self-esteem, self-concept clarity and mood on the one hand and life story characteristics on the other hand, we will use series of person's correlations

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
The open text field descriptions of life stories and famous persons will be screened and if participants have not followed instructions, they will be excluded.
If participants have completed fewer than half the items on a given scale they will be excluded from analyses involving that scale

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 recruit participants who participate in a research methods course and their peers. We plan to include up to 100 participants in each condition. As there is a deadline for the end of data collection (because students are given the data set and required to write a report based on the data as a part of the course), we will discontinue data collection after the deadline and analyse data.

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

We plan to explore whether narcissism and attachment correlate with improvement in self-esteem after the experimental manipulation.