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

H1: Constructive news reporting using an emotion-based approach leads to less negative emotions and, as a consequence, to more prosocial intentions and behavior than non-constructive news reporting.

RQ1: To what extent do emotions function as a mediator in the relationship between solution-based constructive journalism and prosocial intentions and behavior?

H2: Constructive news reporting using a solution-based approach leads to a higher level of self-efficacy and, as a consequence, to more prosocial intentions and behavior than non-constructive news reporting.

RQ2: To what extent does self-efficacy function as a mediator in the relationship between emotion-based constructive journalism and prosocial intentions and behavior?

RQ3: To what extent do the conditions differ in their effect on prosocial intentions & behavior?

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

Prosocial intentions: Questionnaire including 6 items (cf. Bandura (2006)).

Prosocial behavior: Amount of money donated (max: 10 coins of 0.10€)

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

Children aged 9-13 from 20 classes (grade 4-6) from six Dutch schools. Each class will be assigned pseudo-randomly to one of three conditions. Participants will watch a different version of a news fragment:

1. Control: Non-constructive news fragment
2. Emotion-based: Constructive news fragment which includes positive emotions
3. Solution-based: Constructive news fragment which includes possible solutions

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

For the analyses, we will use linear mixed-effects model analyses in R. For all measures internal consistency will be checked by PCA.

First, we will run two models to determine if condition predicts differences in the mediators. For significant results, we will conduct post-hoc tests.

modela1: Emotions ~ Video condition + (1 | class) + (1 + Video condition | school)

modela2: Self-efficacy ~ Video condition + (1 | class) + (1 + Video condition | school)

Second, we will run four models to determine if the mediators predict the DVs controlling for the condition, if the effect of the mediators on the DVs differs between conditions, and if the condition predicts the DVs controlling for the mediators. For significant results, we will conduct post-hoc tests.

modelb1: Prosocial intentions ~ Emotions*Video condition + (1 + Emotions | class) + (1 + Video condition*Emotions | school)

modelb2: Prosocial behavior ~ Emotions*Video condition + (1 + Emotions | class) + (1 + Video condition*Emotions | school)

modelb3: Prosocial intentions ~ Self-efficacy*Video condition + (1 + Self-efficacy | class) + (1 + Video condition*Self-efficacy | school)

modelb4: Prosocial behavior ~ Self-efficacy*Video condition + (1 + Self-efficacy | class) + (1 + Video condition*Self-efficacy | school)

We will control, if necessary, for age, gender, level of news consumption, general prosocial behavior and negative emotions before exposure.

5) Any secondary analyses?

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6) 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.

Since no pilot study was conducted, a power analysis was conducted in G*Power 3.1, with 80% chance of detecting an effect of $\eta^2 = .02$ (cf. Kleemans, Schindwein & Dohmen (2017)) and three participant groups, yielded a minimum sample size of 476 participants.

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

The mediators Emotions (cf. Kleemans, Schindwein & Dohmen (2017)) and Self-efficacy (cf. Bandura (2006)) will be measured by means of questionnaires. A manipulation check will be conducted (5 items on a 10 point scale).

8) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet