



Writing a Scientific Survey Worksheet

Instructions: Below are examples of poorly written survey questions.

1. **Example:** On average, how many hours do the lights in your classroom remain on per day?

- a. 0 to 4 hours
- b. 4 to 8 hours
- c. More than 8 hours

- **Problem:** The answers choices here are not mutually exclusive. If a person left the lights on for 4 hours per day they can choose either “a” or “b.”

- **Correction:** _____

2. **Example:** Some scholars believe that the risks of rising landfills are underrated. Do you agree?

- **Problem:** This is a leading question and can cause bias toward a specific answer.

- **Correction:** _____

3. **Example:** Which of the following items do you recycle at least weekly?

- a. Plastic bottles
- b. Tin cans

- **Problem:** The answer choices in here do not account for recycling any items other than bottles and cans.

- **Correction:** _____

4. **Example:** How often do you read the community newspaper?

- a. Rarely
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often

- **Problem:** The answer choices here are vague. Each participant might have a different idea of what “Rarely,” “Often” and “Sometimes” means.

- **Correction:** _____



5. **Example:** The cafeteria at school recently changed its menu to include healthier options. Do you like the new menu items?

a. Yes

b. No

- **Problem:** This question assumes that the reader has knowledge about the old cafeteria menu as well as the new one.

- **Correction:** _____

6. **Example:** How much water do you drink a day?

a. None

b. 1 liter

c. 2 glasses

d. 40 ounces

- **Problem:** The answer choices here are inconsistent forms of measurement.

- **Correction:** _____