



Withdrawal – Taking Information Back

Aim: To explain that it's ok to change your mind about being involved in research. If you change your mind, this is called withdrawal.

Resources:

- Paper cut into strips
- A bowl
- Pens



How to:

Round 1

1. Give everyone a slip of paper. Ask them a question (something related to your research, or unrelated like 'what's your favourite colour?')
2. Ask the group to write or draw their answers on the paper and fold it in half so you can't see it.
3. Add the slips to a bowl and mix them up.

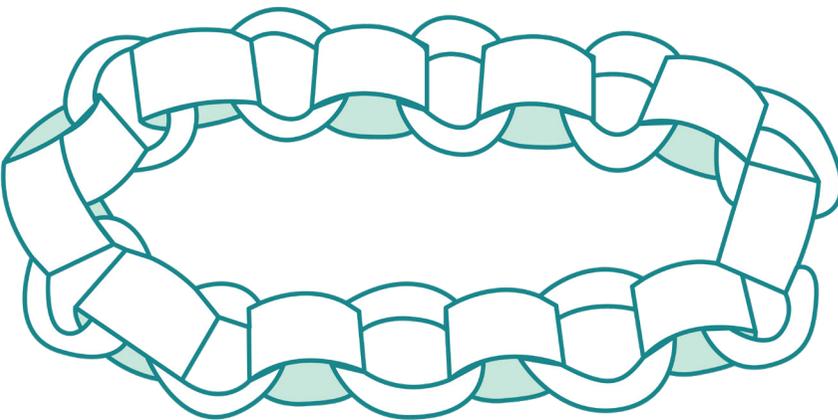
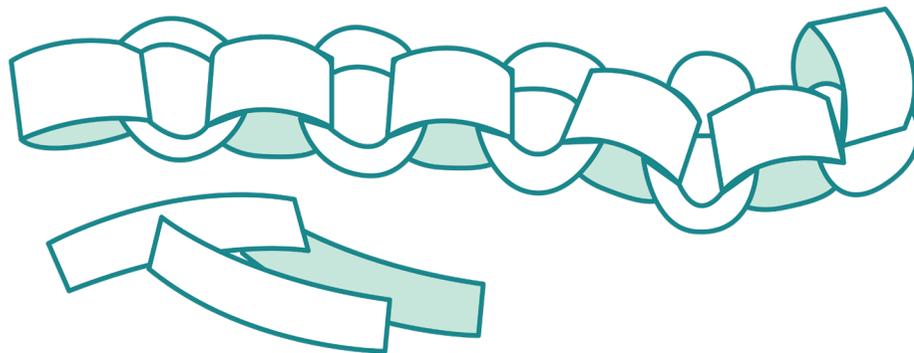
4. Pick out a random slip. Without unfolding it ask whose it is. Can you tell? Explain that when your thoughts go into research often no one will know it was you who said it.
5. Ask the group what would happen if they changed their mind about sharing their answer? It would be hard to find their answer and take it back.

Round 2

1. Repeat steps 1-3 from round 1. This time, ask the group to draw something on the outside of the slip.
2. Add the slips to a bowl and mix them up. Ask someone in the group to find their information and pull it out of the bowl. If you wanted to take back your answer, could you this time? Sometimes researchers give your answers a code so that they can remove it if you change your mind. This is called withdrawing your data.

Round 3

1. Explain that you're going to make something out of their answers to show other people about what you've learned.
2. Using the slips from round 2, create a paper chain in a closed circle.
3. Ask the group if it would be possible to remove their slip now without damaging the chain? Explain that sometimes you can take your answers out of research up until a certain time. After researchers have looked at what you said and made it into something to show other people, it can be difficult to take your answers back.



Activity variants

You can adapt this method by swapping paper chains for other items (e.g. lego, pasta, plasticine). For example:

★ ★ Round 1:

Use items of the same colour/type

★ ★ Round 2:

Use different colours

◎ ★ Round 3:

Combine items (e.g. blend plasticine, mix together pasta, build something from lego)