

Negative Versus Positive Thoughts of Others*

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I chose to monitor my thoughts throughout the day in hopes of reducing the number of negative thoughts I have about others. I was noticing myself getting very impatient and unforgiving about others and needed to change.

I used a bracelet bead counter and pen slash marks on my hand to keep track of both positive and negative thoughts. At the end of the day at about 6-7 o'clock I would write down in a journal the numbers and then record on my chart.

I decreased my negative thoughts by 1.4 and increased my positive thoughts by x 1.4 merely by counting and charting. However, to push a little harder I began to make a conscious effort, using a written reminder in my daily planner, to keep an open mind about others. This intervention did not maintain or increase my positive thoughts acceleration but I did continue to improve at x 1.1. My acceleration goal was 20 positive thoughts about others a day, but my highest frequency was 16 positive thoughts in a day.

My negative thoughts continued to decline at 1.3 with the daily planner prompt. My deceleration goal was three negative thoughts a day which I achieved on two days and exceeded on one day having only two!

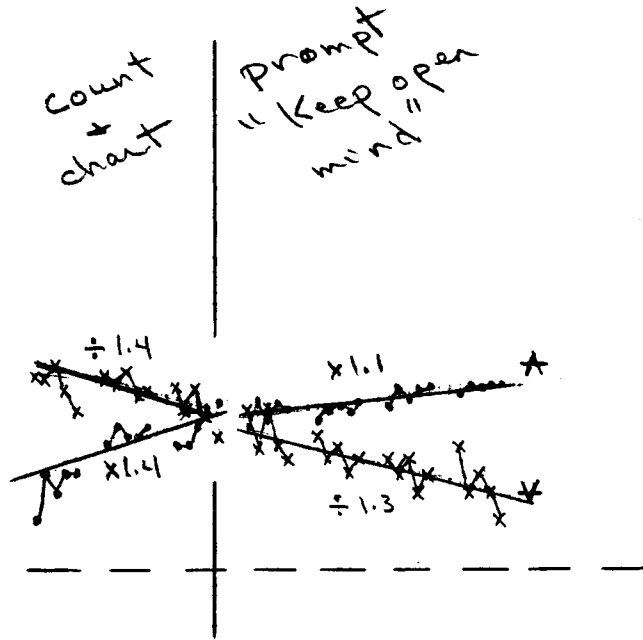
*This project was completed as a class project in an undergraduate winter term 2002 course at the University of Oregon entitled Evaluation for Decision Making, taught by Clay Starlin.

20 Jan. 02
27 3 10

17 Feb 02
24 3 10

17 Mar 02
24 31 7

14 Apr 02



CLAY
STARLIN

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positive vs
negative thoughts
about others