

Interpersonal Closeness Measure (Sample, Under Development)

Prior to administering the measure, the investigator says,

“We’re going to measure how close you feel to people. You will get five sheets of paper. Each sheet of paper has a line on it. On each page, you should find the word “self” at the start of the line. We want you to express how close you feel about specific people or things. First, write down the person or thing you I read to you. You show how close you feel about another person or thing by marking the line at the distance you feel best represents how close you feel; if you feel really close, you mark the line at a point close to the word “Self.” If you don’t feel very close, then you put the mark farther away. Please indicate how close you feel to each person or thing we mention, and just make one mark. Try not to second-guess and mark the line how you feel, not how you think you should feel. Someone else will look at your papers, and if we do look at them, we won’t see them for a long time. The papers will not have your name on them.”

Alternately, if the measure is completed on a single page “You will get a single sheet of paper with five lines on it. Each line has the word “self” at the start of the line. You show how close you feel about another person by marking the line at the distance you feel best represents how close you feel; if you feel really close, you mark the line at a point close to the word “Self. If you don’t feel very close, then you put the mark farther away. Please indicate how close you feel to each person or thing we mention, and just make one mark. Try not to second-guess and mark the line how you feel, not how you think you should feel. After you make the mark, fold down the paper to the next line.”

The targets can be written on a set of cards for the investigator if the investigator does not want to pick a target him or herself; otherwise, items should be in order. Use either randomized or ordered administration on all trials. The investigator requests that the name or relationship of the person or thing be written near (above or below) each line.

The investigator hands the participant a single sheet of paper printed with a circle at the center and the subject’s five-digit identifying number on the top right corner. The investigator says “Please show how close you feel to [one of the five targets] by drawing an X or mark in the line at the distance from “Self” you think best shows how close you feel.” The participant should mark the line, fold it up or otherwise conceal it and place it in a sealed envelope.

- Mark how close you feel to you as you see yourself. This may seem strange, but think of watching yourself. Now think about how close you feel to yourself as a whole person, as if you were looking at someone else?
- Think about how close you feel to me right now and mark how close you feel on this page. (If necessary, you can remind people that you will not see their drawings until the study is complete, and/or you can state, if it is the case, that another person will be looking at these measures.)
- [Annie/Michael,] Mark how close you feel to [Annie/Michael], the other co-therapist.

- Think of someone important to you right now; your husband, wife or partner, your sister or brother, or your son or daughter. Write down how this person is related or connected to you, as “partner,” “sister or brother.” Do not write their names. Mark who close you feel to them right now.
- Mark how close you feel to the world right now. Think of the world and all the people and animals in the world, and mark how close you feel to the whole world.”

Each sheet of paper should be folded or otherwise concealed within an envelope so that neither the investigators nor the participant can view each drawing. Or, if the measure is completed on a single sheet of paper, the paper should be folded into fifths as described above. Make sure that each sheet has a subject number on it and preferably a visit number and time of administration on it.

Sample line

Self

Scoring: The measure is scored by using a metric ruler. The additional drawing is measured in mm distance from the central form, and closeness is measured from center “self” symbol to target.

Scoring does not have to be done by the investigator and can be performed by an assistant.