Practice 2 Information

Research Question

"How do U.S. people develop their intergenerational social mobility expectations in 10 years?"

Sample Survey (a portion)

Theme 1: Higher Education and Expectations

Q1A. In general, do you think that having a higher education degree makes people expect their work and financial situations in 10 years to be _____ compared to their parents' situations?
a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Q1B. Thinking about your own higher education experiences (e.g., interactions with professors, teaching assistants, peers), how have these experiences affected your expectations about your work and financial situation in 10 years compared to your parents' situations?
a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Q1_Probe. Could you tell us more about how your higher education experiences influenced your expectations about your situation in 10 years? For example, was there a specific person or event that shaped your thinking?

Theme 2: Reference Group that People Choose

Q2A. Have any of the following individuals' experiences influenced your expectations about your work and financial situation in 10 years compared to your parents' situations? *(Select all that apply.)*

a). siblings
b). peers (e.g., high school or college friends)
c). other relatives (e.g., cousins, aunts/uncles)
d). other (please specify: _____)
e). none of these above

Q2B. Which one of these individuals influenced you the most? *(If Q2A = e, skip to next section.)*

Q2C. Thinking about this individual, do their experiences make you expect your work and financial situation in 10 years to be _____ compared to your parents' situations?
a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Q2_Probe. What specific events or outcomes related to this individual changed your expectations?

Note on Response Generation

LLM Version – DeepSeek-V4.1-Flash

Prompt –

I am leading a 50-min discussion section of "Sociological Research Methods" which is mainly for junior and senior sociology majors. This week, we're talking about qualitative data analysis - coding. However, none of my students are conducting interviews but rather doing surveys. I want to make this section more directly helpful for them, so I'm thinking of talking about coding open-ended questions used in surveys. Specifically, my students are mainly having their open-ended questions as probes, inviting respondents to illustrate more on the rationale behind their choices. I therefore need examples for them to practice.

Suppose I want to study how people develop their intergenerational social mobility expectations in 10 years.

Suppose, for the theme of "influences of higher education," I'm asking

Question A -

Higher education degrees may influence people's expectations on their own work and financial situations in 10 years, in comparison to their parents' - their own being better, similar, or worse. Some people argue that higher education degrees make people believe in better work and financial situations, while some other people argue that degrees make people expect worse situations. What do you think? Please fill in the blank:

Higher education degrees make people expect _____ work and financial situations in 10 years, in comparison to their parents'.

a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Question B -

Some people say that their higher education experiences (e.g., how it went with the professors, TAs, peers, etc.) make them expect better work and financial situations in 10 years compared to those of their parents, while some others suggest that experiences lead to worse situations. How about you? Please fill in the blank:

My higher education experiences made me expect _____ work and financial situations in 10 years, in comparison to their parents'.

a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Probe -

Could you tell me some more details on how your higher education experiences influenced your expectations on your situations in 10 years? For example, is there specifically an individual and/or an event that influenced your thoughts?

Also suppose, for the theme of "reference group that people choose," I ask

Question A -

Are there any individuals whose experiences influenced your expectation on your situations in 10 years compared to your parents'? If yes, who are they? Select all that apply.

a). siblings
b). peers (in high school, in college, etc.)
c). relatives
d). others, please specify: _____
e). not applicable

Question B -
Out of all these individuals, who do you think influenced you the most?

Question C -
This individual who influenced you the most has made you expect _____ work and financial situations in 10 years, in comparison to their parents'.
a). much worse
b). worse
c). similar
d). better
e). much better

Probe -
On this individual who influenced you the most, what the events / outcomes changed your mind?

Now, do two things. First, revise my questions as needed, so that they are appropriate and good survey questions. Use your revised version as the sample survey. Also tell me why you revise the questions in such a way. Second, generate 28 responses to both probe questions. For each respondent, tell me 1). the sociodemographic identity you assumed, 2). their choices to the other close-ended and partially open-ended questions. Please be as realistic and close to real-life samples as possible. For these information, save them in a spreadsheet (.xlsx file) for me to download.

Other Parts of AI-Generated Reply –

Why AI revised questions in that way:
1. Removed leading framing. The original "Some people argue X, others argue Y" primes respondents and adds unnecessary cognitive load. The revised questions ask directly and neutrally.
2. Fixed pronoun errors. In the personal questions, "their parents'" was inconsistent with "your own" and "you." I changed it to "your parents' situations."

3. Clarified the outcome. “Work and financial situations” is a compound outcome. I kept it for continuity with your design, but made the comparison explicit (“compared to your parents’ situations”) and used a consistent 5-point scale.
4. Separated “general” from “personal.” Q1A now explicitly says “In general” and “people,” while Q1B says “your own” and “you.” This reduces confusion when coding probes: respondents can talk about society-level beliefs or their own biography.
5. Made “none of the above” exclusive in Q2A. This prevents impossible combinations (e.g., selecting “none” and “siblings”) and simplifies skip logic.
6. Reduced overlap in reference-group categories. The original “relatives” overlapped with “siblings.” I separated “siblings” from “other relatives” so coders can distinguish close family from extended family.
7. Improved grammar and flow in Probe 2. “What the events / outcomes changed your mind?” is ungrammatical. The revised version asks for “specific events or outcomes related to this individual,” which is easier for respondents to answer and for coders to segment.
8. Added skip-logic note. Q2B and Q2C should only be asked if Q2A is not “none.” This is standard survey practice and prevents missing-data confusion.