

From the Classroom

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More Classic Ben Wright Handouts

In Volume 3 of *Popular Measurement*, we introduced a feature called “From the Classroom.” We reprinted several classic handouts from Ben Wright’s University of Chicago courses on Questionnaire Design and Measurement. We would like to continue this feature and augment it with new materials.

On the following pages you will find two more Ben Wright handouts. The first is “Four Minds to Life,” from Ben’s Questionnaire Design course. The second is “Rasch Analysis for Surveys,” which he sometimes used as a transition from Questionnaire Design to his courses on Measurement.

“Four Minds to Life” reminds us of Ben’s psychological approach to questionnaire design, which he often described as a conversation between researcher and subject(s). In this handout we see his creative use of insights from a broad spectrum of psychological thought, gathered together in a dynamic view of human interaction. Ben’s interest in education is also evident in this early handout.

When we first encountered “Rasch Analysis for Surveys,” we were struck by its grace and even purity as a statement of the essence of Rasch measurement. For Ben, ever restless to create something new, it was just one of a treasure trove of materials he had used for a while and then set aside. We insisted that he distribute it to his new classes. Now Ben is allowing us to share his classroom materials with you.

Your Turn

Many of you are also college and university teachers, not a few of you students of Ben Wright himself, and are now carrying on his traditions of instruction in science and research. We are sure that you have created many classroom materials that deserve a wider audience. As you return to battle this fall, keep in mind which of your own favorite handouts — one-page posters and brief explanations — we could all benefit from seeing.

Please send us your own short classroom materials and illustrative handouts for future inclusion in “From the Classroom.”