ROPE

RELATING TO OLD PEOPLE EVALUATION

AGEISM MEASURE

Ageism is the stereotyping of older adults based on chronological age. It is a form of prejudice and discrimination similar to racism and sexism, which allows younger generations to view older adults as separate from mainstream society. Ageist language and imagery often leads to stereotypes of older adults as weak, frail and disabled. In contrast, there are also positive stereotypes of aging, when people assume that all older adults are wise or caring. Ageism includes prejudice (stereotypes and attitudes), personal discrimination (behaviours), and institutional discrimination (policies and practices). The Relating to Older People Evaluation (ROPE) is a self-report measure of the frequency and type of ageist behaviors. ROPE is a 20-item questionnaire that measures personal discrimination through 14 statements that reflect negative types of ageism, and 6 statements that reflect positive types of ageism.

SCORING THE ROPE

Respondents choose one of three responses to each question. A Never response is scored as 0, Sometimes is scored as 1, and Often is scored as 2. Total score may be summed within each dimension and expressed as a proportion of the highest score possible for that dimension; or the number of items in a dimension with a Sometimes or Often response is divided by the number of items in that dimension (6 or 14) to result in the proportion of positive or negative behaviours reported. The first score is based on both the number and frequency of reported behaviours; the second score measures just the number of different reported behaviours.

Please put a check in the box that indicates how often you relate to old people (those over age 60) in these ways:

	Never	Sometimes	Often
1. Compliment old people on how well they look, despite their age.	○	○	○
2. Send birthday cards to old people that joke about their age.	○	○	○
3. Enjoy conversations with old people because of their age.	○	○	○
4. Tell old people jokes about old age.	○	○	○
5. Hold doors open for old people because of their age.	○	○	○
6. Tell an old person, "You're too old for that."	○	○	○
7. Offer to help an old person across the street because of their age.	○	○	○
8. When I find out an old person's age, I may say, "You don't look that old."	○	○	○
9. Ask an old person for advice because of their age.	○	○	○

	Never	Sometimes	Often
10. When an old person has an ailment, I may say, "That's normal at your age."	◯	◯	◯
11. When an old person can't remember something, I may say, "That's what they call a 'Senior Moment'".	◯	◯	◯
12. Talk louder or slower to old people because of their age.	◯	◯	◯
13. Use simple words when talking to old people.	◯	◯	◯
14. Ignore old people because of their age.	◯	◯	◯
15. Vote for an old person because of their age.	◯	◯	◯
16. Vote against an old person because of their age.	◯	◯	◯
17. Avoid old people because of their age.	◯	◯	◯

	Never	Sometimes	Often
18. Avoid old people because they are cranky.	◯	◯	◯
19. When a slow driver is in front of me, I may think, "It must be an old person."	◯	◯	◯
20. Call an old woman, "young lady," or call an old man, "young man."	◯	◯	◯

What is your age? _____

What is your gender?   M _____   F _____

How many years of education? _____

Any comments? _____

_____

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1   Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, 2010.

2   Cherry, Katie E. and Palmore, Erdman. (2008). "Relating to Older People Evaluation (ROPE): A Measure of Self-Reported Ageism", Educational Gerontology, 34:10, 849-861. Reprinted with permission.

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