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Can State Gratitude be Increased through Mindfulness Practice and a Gratitude Story?

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Mindfulness and Attitudes

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Key words: Mindfulness; Meditation; Gratitude; State attitudes

Abstract

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful and readily showing appreciation for opportunities in life. Gratitude in an individual can be experienced on two levels: trait and state. Trait gratitude involves a predisposition, interpersonal experience that an individual holds on a daily basis. State gratitude is context based and is experienced during specific events. In past research there seems to be a relationship between meditation practice and levels of trait gratitude, but there is little literature investigating this same connection with state gratitude (Chen et al., 2017). For our research, we wanted to expand on this research and test the effects of gratitude meditation and a gratitude story on the levels of state gratitude in participants. We hypothesized that participants who took part in a gratitude meditation and read a gratitude story would have the highest level of state gratitude and those who received a mind wandering exercise, and a control story would show the lowest level of state gratitude.

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