PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND EMPATHY: ANALYSIS OF EMOTIONAL RESPONSES DURING THE USE OF TED TALK VIDEOS IN THE CLASSROOM

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Empathy may increase when observing prosocial behavior of others. The purpose of the study was to evaluate students' emotional responses when observing prosocial behavior demonstrated in a Tedx Talk video through the lens of cognitive empathy and affective empathy. Tedx Talk videos are often shown in college classrooms to enhance learning outcomes. Student participants (N=157) completed the Interpersonal Reactivity Index pre/post assessment to examine if differences of empathy were measurable from before watching the video and after. Paired Samples t test Analyses were run to explore if there were differences between groups over time. Independent Samples t tests were used to understand differences between groups: age, gender and parental status. Results suggested statistically significant changes in empathy both over time and between groups.