

To : Stephany Plut Prodromides (plutpro@scf-fs.usc.edu)
Cc : astin@scrdp.stanford.edu
Attchmnt:
Subject : Re: Control Measure Request=reply
----- Message Text -----

Plu

Hi Stephany,

Thanks for your kind note...welcome to the wonderful world of control!

Your dissertation sounds quite interesting--the relationship of belief about success (which you define as gaining more control) to the expenditure of mental effort. You might want to add in something about how reinforcing or desirable the goal is (i.e., control over wiggling your ear--even if you thought it would be successful--might not be as interesting or worthwhile as control over breathing or tone modulation to a public speaker...)

On Fri, 19 Feb 1999, Stephany Plut Prodromides wrote:

> Dear Dr. Shapiro,
> My name is Stephany and I'm an EdD doctoral student at USC interested in the
> relationship between control and mental effort.
> My advisor at USC, Richard Clark, suggested I read your excellent 1996
> article "Controlling Ourselves..." and I have been looking at your other
> research as well. I find the area of control fascinating, and it will most
> likely be the center of my dissertation, along with mental effort (possible
> hypothesis: If a person does not perceive that expending mental effort
> [solving novel problems] will bring him/her added control, that person will
> refrain from expending such effort). But "control" is a multifaceted
> concept!