

How Should We Speak: Comparing Effectiveness of Promotive and Prohibitive Voices

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Abstract

This study examined whether managerial responses to employee voice behavior is dependent upon the types of voice utilized. Specifically, we argued that employees receive higher idea endorsement, liking and performance ratings when they employ promotive and group voices instead of prohibitive and individual voices. Ninety-nine undergraduate students were randomly assigned into one of the four experimental conditions in a 2 x 2 design (promotive versus prohibitive x individual versus group voices) to study the hypothesized relationships. Results showed that supervisors rated higher performance for employees utilizing promotive voice. Findings also suggested that promotive voice was linked to higher liking and idea endorsement than prohibitive voice while group voice might be related to lower idea endorsement than individual voice. Inconsistent results might be partially due to small sample size and undergraduate student sample but findings had important implications for how subordinates should speak up in the workplace as supervisors do not perceive all speaking up behaviors equally.

*Keywords:* voice behavior, promotive voice, prohibitive voice, idea endorsement, liking, performance ratings, managerial response, extra-role behavior

## How Should We Speak: Comparing effectiveness of Promotive and Prohibitive Voices

Within an organization, while supervisors are the ones who hold the power to implement changes and direct the daily organizational operation, it is often the subordinates who hold valuable information about existing concerns and innovative ideas that can potentially contribute to the success of the organization. As a result, much research for the past few decades has been devoted to study the antecedents and outcomes of such important work behavior. Indeed, voice behavior, or speaking up to raise concerns or make suggestions in the workplace, has been linked to employee psychological well-being (Cortina & Magley, 2003), organizational justice perceptions (Avery & Quiñones, 2002), as well as team (Kim, MacDuffie, & Phil, 2010) and organizational performances (Argot & Ingram, 2000). In order to ensure smooth running of the organization and its continued growth, employee voice behavior is essential.

Despite such importance, employees are not always willing to speak up. They instead often opt for silence because of the perceived futility to change the status quo (Detert & Trevino, 2010), or the personal risks involved, such as being viewed negatively and damaging valuable relationships (Milliken, Morrison, & Hewlin, 2003). Before speaking up, subordinates often have to carefully assess the situations in order to determine whether it is safe and appropriate to speak up. It is understandable that they would only want to speak up when their ideas would be endorsed without any danger of social repercussions. Research has shown that leadership behaviors are vital in facilitating or deterring voice behavior by signaling for a psychologically safe or unsafe environment; managerial openness and transformational leadership are especially impactful upon voice behaviors of the high performers (Detert & Burris, 2007). As such, it is important to study the specific conditions under which supervisors would view voice behavior positively and have intention to address the raised concerns.

To date, research examining specifically managerial responses to employee voice has been limited and showed mixed results. While some research suggested that supervisors view those who speak up more favorably as better performers (Whiting, Podsakoff, & Pierce, 2008), others found that voice behavior deters career progression (Seibert, Kraimer, & Crant, 2001). Two reasons that may explain the inconsistency, as proposed by Burris (2012), are the lack of research that (1) examines managers' actual opinion toward the idea raised and (2) the different types of voice employed. Depending on the way in which voice is raised, supervisors can have differential responses toward the idea raised and the person who raises it. The objective of the current study was to delve deeper into these effects of different forms of voice and examine how individual versus group voice and promotive versus prohibitive voice might impact idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings. Specifically, we argued that subordinates receive higher idea endorsement, liking, and supervisor performance ratings when they employ group and promotive voice than when they utilize individual and prohibitive voices. This study expanded the research on specific ways subordinates should speak up in order to achieve the most favorable responses both textually and contextually and helped bridging the gap in understanding the effectiveness of voice behaviors.

### *Voice Behavior and Managerial Responses*

Traditionally, employee voice behavior refers to making innovative suggestions for changes and recommending modifications for existing standard procedures even when others disagree (Van Dyne & LePine, 1998). It is a form of extra-role behavior and differs from upward influence because the intention is to benefit and improve the company, not for personal gain. Unlike other organizational citizenship behaviors like altruism and civic virtue, voice behavior carries a communicative and challenging component by questioning the status quo. Although

voice can be directed upward, downward, and horizontally, we focused upon upward voice behavior toward supervisors in this study because supervisors are the ones that hold the decision power to implement change and have direct control over the subordinates' career development. With higher stakes involved, upward voice is largely a planned behavior by the employees with careful appraisal of the situation to ensure that the behavior is needed and welcomed with no personal risks (Liang, Farh & Farh, 2012).

The two outcomes that are especially of concern to employees when speaking up are managerial responses to the voice behavior itself and the person who raises the voice. As the intention of voice is to speak up against the status quo for the benefit of the organization, employees hope to persuade supervisors into endorsing their idea and subsequently being willing to allocate resources to address the idea raised. Managerial endorsement is essential for any organizational changes to be made and is assessed by the subordinates, albeit not always correctly, when they choose to speak up (Dutton, Ashford, O'Neill, Hayes, & Wierba, 1997). Besides evaluating the idea and deciding whether to endorse it or not, supervisors also form an opinion toward the subordinate who raises the voice, as reflected by their liking and performance ratings of the subordinate. Employee voice behavior can affect supervisors' perceptions of the employees as a person and contributing member to the organization. Prior research suggested that liking has an indirect effect toward performance ratings (Wayne & Liden, 1995) and a recent meta-analysis reinforced this by finding substantial overlap between rater liking and performance ratings (Sutton, Baldwin, Wood, & Hoffman, 2013). Recognizing the employee's ability (or lack thereof) to perform, supervisors subsequently evaluate them. Though these two outcomes can be related, supervisors do not always perceive employees with ideas they do not endorse as a lesser performer (Burriss, 2012). Though higher liking and performance ratings are not the direct,

primary motives of the employees who speak up, they are nevertheless important concerns as employees do not want to suffer personal consequences for engaging in this extra-role behavior.

### *Promotive and Prohibitive Voice*

While most of the research to date has examined voice as a single dimension construct, the expansion of its definition by Van Dyne and colleagues (2003) to include both attempts to initiate constructive changes and express concerns calls for the need to examine different aspects of voice. The broadened construct includes both change-oriented, or promotive, as well as concern-oriented, or prohibitive, aspects of voice. Liang, Farh, and Farh (2012) defines promotive voice as speaking up to improve work practices and procedures, and prohibitive voice as expression to raise concerns for existing practices or behaviors that may harm the organization. For example, an employee using promotive voice may suggest a new work schedule that can further increase productivity of the work team, while an employee using prohibitive voice may point out the current lack of productivity in the work team instead. With their differences in framing and content, it is logical to predict that supervisors may perceive and respond to them differently.

Promotive voice is future-oriented, and it is conceptualized to be associated with innovation and improvement in the workplace (Liang, et al., 2012), similar to the older definition of voice. Although it can be viewed as challenging by proposing ways to change the status quo, it is also constructive in nature, providing managers with solutions to address the issue of concern. As a result, it is more likely to lead to managerial endorsement because the good intention behind is easily recognized and generally interpreted as positive if the issue and solutions raised are valid. Because of the proactive attitude expressed by the employee when

speaking up, supervisors may also form a better impression upon the employees and view them as both a competent employee and good organizational citizen.

On the other hand, prohibitive voice is more past-oriented as it often seeks to stop harmful practices in the workplace. By not providing a solution to the problem, prohibitive voice can be viewed as less constructive in nature and more like a complaint, which limits the supervisor's likelihood of endorsing the idea. Unlike promotive voice, the good intention behind prohibitive voice may not be so easily recognizable because raising concerns implies failure in the system and may involve placing blame on those that are responsible (i.e. the supervisors themselves; Liang et al., 2012). Because of the implicit blame in prohibitive voice, supervisors may perceive this form of voice as a person-based rather than issue-based attack, similar to whistle-blowing. As a result, they may view the employees more negatively, be less receptive to his ideas, or even retaliate by rating them lower in performance (Mesmer-Magnus & Viswesveran, 2005). Even if prohibitive voice only leads to task conflict (De Drau & Weigant, 2003), it can easily have a negative spillover toward relationship conflict with the supervisor and the group. Speaking up in challenging ways can be seen as a threat to collective unity and organizational commitment (Morrison & Milken, 2000) as the employees fail to be a good sportsman. As a result, managers may view these employees as a troublemakers and their impression of those who speak up prohibitively may likewise suffer, leading to lower liking and performance ratings.

*Hypothesis 1a:* There is a significant main effect between the types of voice and idea endorsement, such that promotive voice is related to higher idea endorsement than prohibitive voice.

*Hypothesis 1b:* There is a significant main effect between the types of voice and liking such that promotive voice is related to higher liking than prohibitive voice.

*Hypothesis 1c:* There is a significant main effect between the types of voice and performance ratings such that promotive voice is related to higher performance ratings than prohibitive voice.

### *Individual and Group Voice*

Besides speaking up promotively or prohibitively, employees can also speak up either individually or as a group. As social beings, humans have a tendency to conform to the majority influence in attempt to assimilate and fit in. The power of group or social opinion in influencing individual opinion change has long been established (Moore, 1921; Wheeler & Jordan, 1925), even when the group opinion may be false (Asch, 1951). Phenomena such as groupthink display the power of the group to drown out minority opinion when the group is strongly cohesive (Janis, 1982). There has been no research to date that specifically examines the effects of group influence in speaking up against the status quo in the workplace, but it is logical to predict that group voice, or speaking up as a group, carries more weight than individual voice, or speaking up as an individual, because it represents not just a singular opinion, but that of multiple people. In turn, supervisors are more likely to be persuaded to endorse the idea. In addition, due to our natural tendency as a social being, people who conform generally are generally more likable than those who do not (Kihstrom & Cantor, 1984). Provided that the idea raised by the employees are valid, supervisors may also be more likely to perceive the employee as more likable as a team player when they represent not only themselves, but also a group of fellow employees. With the more collective and receptive nature of the group voice, supervisors are more likely to rate the employee who employ group voice higher in performance as well.



*Hypothesis 2a:* There is a significant main effect between the number of voice and idea endorsement such that group voice is related to higher idea endorsement than individual voice.

*Hypothesis 2b:* There is a significant main effect between the types of voice and liking such that group voice related to higher liking than individual voice.

*Hypothesis 2c:* There is a significant main effect between the types of voice and performance ratings such that group voice is related to higher performance ratings than individual voice.

Due to the lack of theoretical and empirical evidence to suggest whether there would be interaction effects between the form (promotive versus prohibitive voices) and number (individual versus group. voices) of voices, we studied its relationship with the key outcomes variables (idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings) for exploratory purpose.

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

Potential participants were recruited from undergraduate students in a large East Coast university. Total of 99 students participated in the study, 40 of which were males and 59 of which were females. Mean age of the participants was 21 years and average years of leadership experience was 3 years.

### *Procedure*

Emails were sent to large undergraduate classes with the permission of the instructors asking students to volunteer completing an anonymous online survey. The survey began with a

consent form that informed students of purpose of the study and ensured confidentiality of the results and then asked them to answer a series of scenario-based questions.

### *Measures and Manipulations*

**Forms of Voice.** The design had 4 between-subject experimental conditions: promotive versus prohibitive voice x individual versus group voice. Participants were randomly assigned into two reading scenarios and asked to assume the role of a leader or supervisor in both of them. In the first scenario, adapted from Burris (2012), participants were asked to imagine being the manager for a local transportation company. The focal manager of the scenario was responsible for designing and implementing new bus routes. Several days before the implementation of the new routes, a meeting was held where an employee spoke up, either promotively or prohibitively. Students were randomly assigned into one of the 4 conditions.

In light of the sample being a group of undergraduate students, a second scenario about THON, an annual dance marathon organized by students of the university to raise money for pediatric cancer, was created. In this scenario, participants were asked to imagine being the captain of the rules and regulation committee responsible for implementing the no-bag policy for the event venue. Several days before THON, a final meeting was held where a committee member spoke up. Participants were randomly assigned into one of the 4 conditions.

**Idea Endorsement.** Idea Endorsement was measured by the five-item scale adopted from Burris (2012) on a scale from 1 to 7 (1= *Strongly Disagree*; 7= *Strongly Agree*). Sample items include “I think this person’s comments should be implemented” and “I agree with this person’s comments” ( $\alpha = 0.84$ ).

**Liking.** Liking was measured by the 4-item scale adopted from Wayne & Ferris (1990) on a scale from 1 to 7 (1= *Strongly Disagree*; 7= *Strongly Agree*). Sample items include “I think I will get along well with this subordinate” and “supervising this subordinate is a pleasure” ( $\alpha = 0.84$ ).

**Performance Ratings.** Performance ratings was measured by the 3 item-scale adopted from Burris (2012) on a scale from 1 to 7. Items include “How would you rate this person’s performance based on what you know” (1= *Very Poorly*; 7= *Very Good*), “If a position were available, I would recommend this person for a promotion” (1= *Strongly Disagree*; 7= *Strongly Agree*), and “If this person was promoted and you are colleagues, I would expect him to perform in his new position” (1= *Strongly Disagree*; 7= *Strongly Agree*) ( $\alpha = 0.79$ ).

**Agreeableness.** Due to possible effect of personality upon people’s perception of voice behavior, agreeableness was measured as a control by an 8-item scale adopted from the Big Five Mini Markers (Saucier, 1994) on a scale of 1 to 7 (1= *Strongly Disagree*; 7= *Strongly Agree*). Sample items include “warm” and “cooperative” ( $\alpha = 0.86$ ).

## Results

We conducted two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to test all hypotheses. Descriptive statistics of focal variables can be found on Table 1.

In hypotheses 1a, 1b, and 1c, we predicted that there would be a significant main effect between the form of voice and idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings respectively in that promotive voice would be related to higher idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings than prohibitive voice. Results showed a significant main effect between the form of voice and idea endorsement in the THON scenario [ $F(1, 95) = 6.06, p < 0.05$ ] but only

marginally significant main effect in the business scenario [ $F(1,95) = 2.80, 0.05 < p < 0.10$ ]. Thus, idea endorsement was higher under promotive voice ( $M = 5.65, SD = 0.83$ ) than under prohibitive voice ( $M = 5.42, SD = 0.76$ ) in the business scenario, but idea endorsement was only maybe higher under promotive voice ( $M = 4.75, SD = 0.95$ ) than under prohibitive voice ( $M = 4.45, SD = 0.91$ ). There was also significant main effect between liking and form of voice in the business scenario [ $F(1,95) = 12.31, p < 0.01$ ] but no significant main effect in the THON scenario [ $F(1,95) = 0.73, p = \text{n.s.}$ ]. Liking was higher under promotive voice ( $M = 5.07, SD = 0.78$ ) than under prohibitive voice ( $M = 4.52, SD = 0.82$ ) in the business scenario, but was not significantly different under promotive ( $M = 4.47, SD = 0.89$ ) or prohibitive voices ( $M = 4.39, SD = 0.89$ ) in THON scenario. Moreover, there was significant main effect between performance ratings and form of voice in both business [ $F(1,95) = 7.25, p = 0.01$ ] and THON scenarios [ $F(1,95) = 5.11, p < 0.05$ ]. Performance ratings was higher under promotive voice ( $M = 5.47, SD = 0.76$ ) than under prohibitive voice ( $M = 5.00, SD = 0.98$ ) in the business scenario. The same relationship was found in the THON scenario as performance ratings was also higher under promotive ( $M = 4.75, SD = 0.95$ ) than prohibitive voices ( $M = 4.45, SD = 0.91$ ). Hypotheses 1a and b were partially supported and 1c was supported.

In hypotheses 2a, 2b, and 2c, we predicted that there would be a significant main effect between the number of voice and idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings respectively, such that group voice would be related to higher idea endorsement, liking, and performance ratings than individual voice. Results showed that there was only marginal significant main effect between number of voice and idea endorsement in the business scenario [ $F(1,95) = 3.57, 0.05 < p < 0.10$ ] but no significant main effect in the THON scenario [ $F(1,95) = 0.84, p = \text{n.s.}$ ]. Idea endorsement might be higher under individual voice ( $M = 5.62, SD = 0.76$ ) than under group

voice ( $M= 5.43$ ,  $SD= 0.83$ ) in business project scenario, but idea endorsement did not appear to be significantly different under individual ( $M= 5.08$ ,  $SD= 1.26$ ) or group voices ( $M= 4.86$ ,  $SD= 1.39$ ) in THON scenario. There was also no significant main effect between number of voice and liking in both business [ $F(1,95)= 1.35$ ,  $p= n.s.$ ] and THON scenarios [ $F(1,95)= 0.73$ ,  $p= n.s.$ ]. There was no statistically significant differences of liking under individual ( $M= 4.81$ ,  $SD= 0.89$ ) or group voice ( $M= 4.77$ ,  $SD= 0.82$ ) in business scenario and the same went under individual ( $M= 4.55$ ,  $SD= 0.93$ ) or group voices ( $M= 4.36$ ,  $SD= 0.86$ ) in THON scenario. Lastly, there was not significant main effect between number of voice and performance ratings in both business [ $F(1,95)= 0.68$ ,  $p= n.s.$ ] and THON [ $F(1,95)= 0.53$ ,  $p= n.s.$ ] scenarios. There was no statistically significant differences in performance ratings under individual ( $M= 5.22$ ,  $SD= 0.99$ ) or group voice ( $M= 5.24$ ,  $SD= 0.83$ ) in the business scenario, and the same went under individual ( $M= 4.55$ ,  $SD= 0.93$ ) and group voices ( $M= 4.36$ ,  $SD= 0.86$ ) in THON scenario. Hypothesis 2a was partially supported but hypotheses 2b and 2c were not supported.

In addition, there was no significant interaction effects between form and number of voice upon the outcomes variables of interests: idea endorsement [ $F(1, 95)= 1.80$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ], liking [ $F(1,95)= 1.17$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ], and performance ratings [ $F(1,95)= 0.09$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ] in the business project scenario. There was also no significant interaction effects between form and number of voices upon the outcome variables of interests: idea endorsement [ $F(1,95)= 0.15$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ], liking [ $F(1,95)= 0.01$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ], and performance ratings [ $F(1,95)= 0.76$ ,  $p> 0.10$ ]. Overall form and number of voices did not have an effect upon each other in influencing the focal variables.

## Discussion

The purpose of this study was to shed light upon the different outcomes associated with different forms of voice. Based on existing theory and literature, we proposed that both form and number of voice used by subordinates predicted idea endorsement, liking and performance ratings by supervisors. Results only partially supported our predictions by suggesting that form of voice (promotive versus prohibitive) is a stronger predictor of overall effectiveness of speaking up behavior than the number (individual versus group) of voice.

### *Major Findings and Implications*

Results partially supported our first set of hypotheses by showing consistent results of promotive voice leading to higher performance ratings than prohibitive voice did in both business and THON scenarios. Promotive voice also led to higher idea endorsement in the THON (but not in the business project) scenario and liking in the business project (but not in the THON) scenario. Collectively, these findings suggested that promotive voice is more effective overall in receiving high endorsement and increasing managerial perception of liking and performance ratings upon the employees. This is consistent with Liang, Farh, and Farh's (2012) assertion that promotive voice is generally better received than prohibitive voice, possibly because its good intention is more apparent when the focus of the voice is placed upon the improvements that can be made, not on the problem itself. Prohibitive voice, however, by focusing on the existing problem with no solution, implies the manager is at fault and is now responsible for addressing the issue, thus appearing more challenging and threatening. This result is consistent with previous research that suggested that employees who challenge the status quo without offering innovative suggestions may suffer negative repercussions from supervisors and ultimately receive less career success (Seibert et al., 2001). Contrary to existent finding that

managers see those who employ challenging voices that go against the status quo as poorer performers (Burris, 2012), this study suggested that there may be a distinction between different types of challenging voice and certain ways of voicing may be less threatening than others.

On the other hand, results only barely supported our second set of hypotheses that group voices are more effective than individual voices. Results suggested that while individual voice may be more effective in leading to higher idea endorsement in the business project scenario, they do not appear to have any effect upon liking and performance ratings. It is possible that while group voice may carry more weight than individual voice, it may also be more threatening to the supervisor since more people are voicing out to challenge existent situations and possibly advocate for change. Supervisors may perceive this as a collective lack of sportsmanship and become more resistant and defensive against the ideas raised. In addition, the supervisor's personal attitude toward the idea raised may also influence their perception of individual versus group voice. Research on persuasion has shown that people tend to be more resistant toward influence attempts that go strongly against their personal beliefs (Hovland, Harvey, & Sherif, 1957), while when they are only initially mildly disagreeing with the majority, people will eventually develop private acceptance of the majority position (Mackie, 1987). As this study did not consider the supervisor's personal attitude toward the issue itself, group voice, which is similar to a majority opinion, was not shown to have a clear cut effect upon the managerial endorsement and perceptions of positive affect and performance. Another possible explanation is that the number of people voicing does not matter in managerial perception of the behavior at all. Supervisors focus more upon the content quality of the voice instead of whether it represents a single person or multiple people's opinions.

The most significant implication of this study is that confirming previous research, not all forms of voice are perceived equally. Depending whether the employees focus on making changes to the workplace or simply express concerns toward existent conditions, there can be direct impact upon the perceived quality of their voice, their impression by the managers, and their performance ratings. Though the employees do not voice for self-interest, this study suggested that their forms of voice have an effect upon their performance ratings, which is linked to their career progression and financial interests. Therefore, if they raise a concern but do not suggest any concrete ways to improve it, they may not only fail to bring about the changes they want, but also suffer backlash despite having good intentions. Though innovation and acknowledging existing problems are often linked, organizations may also be more readily willing to improve based on current functional systems instead of seeing the current status quo as intrinsically flawed. Overall, by taking a more nuanced approach toward the construct of voice, this study helped bridging an existing research gap in different managerial responses to voice behavior, and provided a possible explanation to why voice behavior does not consistently lead to positive work outcomes such as higher performance ratings.

#### *Limitations and Future Directions of Research*

One major limitation of this study was the small undergraduate sample size that are limited in work and leadership experience. While we did attempt to address this with a student relevant scenario, results remained inconsistent between that and the business project scenario. With a larger sample size, it is possible that those marginally significant relationships may become significant and our findings would be more conclusive. Future research should replicate



this study on a bigger sample of working adults with managerial experiences and even examine whether there are age differences in perception of voice and decision-making.

Moreover, the study only simulated the voice behavior in a group by asking the participants to imagine the scenario through an online survey, which might limit its generalizability to real life work situations. Other factors such as tone and speed of speech can also affect the perception of voice and the use of text scenario can open participants to personal interpretation. Future research should either conduct this in the field through surveys or through laboratory study where participants are asked to assume the role of a team leader for an actual simulated work group with confederates voicing out differently.

Additionally, we have only examined the direct effects of the form and number of voices upon work outcomes without consideration of its mechanisms or possible boundary conditions. Past research has suggested that perceptions of loyalty or threat can mediate the relationship between different forms of voice and performance ratings (Burris, 2012). Managerial willingness to endorse an idea can also be affected by the ease of implementation and the extent to which the suggestion will benefit the organization and the supervisors themselves. Future studies can examine further their cognitive appraisal to the different types of voice, as well as the situational factors that may influence their perception of both the behavior and the employees who speak up.

### **Conclusion**

The results of this study suggested that despite the importance of voice behavior, not all forms of voice are perceived equally by managers. Specifically, while the use of promotive voice to bring about constructive change may lead to the positive effects of higher endorsement and performance ratings, the use of prohibitive voice to focus upon existing problems may be

ineffective to improve current situation and even lead to negative personal consequences for the employees. Employees should carefully frame their ideas and concerns in order to achieve a win-win situation where both the organization and they themselves can benefit from their voice behavior.

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## **Appendix A**

### Reading Scenarios with Manipulations

#### *Business Project Scenario*

Please imagine the following scenario:

You are the manager of a local transportation company and are in charge of a project to reorganize the bus routes in the community in order to reduce cost. Several days before the new routes would start, a staff in your team spoke up. Please read the following scenario carefully and answer the questions after.

#### *Promotive x Individual Voice*

At the final meeting a few days before the new routes would start, a staff member raised his hand and asked to make a suggestion about the new plan. He then proceeded to explain he thought more time should be allowed in the bus schedule in order to ensure there is sufficient time for daily maintenance (fueling, cleaning, etc.), scheduled breaks, and monthly maintenance (checking the breaks, engine tune-up etc.). The new plan can ensure a high quality of service as well as protect the bus drivers' well-being.

#### *Prohibitive x Individual Voice*

At the final meeting a few days before the new routes would start, a staff member raised his hand and asked to raise a small concern with the new plan. He then proceeded to explain that he is not sure if the plan would work because there is not enough time for the daily bus maintenance (fueling, cleaning, etc.), scheduled breaks and monthly maintenance (checking the breaks, engine tune-up etc.). In the long run, it seems the plan would decrease the quality of service as well as damaging to the bus drivers' well-being

*Promotive x Group Voice*

At the final meeting a few days before the new routes would start, a staff member raised his hand and asked to make a suggestion about the new plan. He then proceeded to explain that he and several fellow staff members thought more time should be allowed in the bus schedule in order to ensure there is sufficient time for daily maintenance (fueling, cleaning, etc.), scheduled breaks and monthly maintenance (checking the breaks, engine tune-up etc.). The new plan can ensure a high quality of service provided as well as protect the bus drivers' well-being.

*Prohibitive x Group Voice*

At the final meeting a few days before the new routes would start, a staff member raised his hand and asked to raise a small concern with your new plan. He then proceeded to explain that he and several fellow staff members were not sure if the plan would work because there is not enough time for the daily bus maintenance (fueling, cleaning, etc.), scheduled breaks and monthly maintenance (checking the breaks, engine tune-up etc.). In the long run, it seems the current plan would decrease the quality of service as well as damaging to the bus drivers' well-being.

THON Scenario

Please imagine the following scenario:

You are the captain of the rules and regulations committee of THON (the annual Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon that raises money for pediatric cancer), and are in charge of

implementing the new no-bag policy for Bryce Jordan Center (BJC), where the event is held. On the day before THON starts, a committee member spoke up during the final meeting. Please read the following scenario carefully and answer the questions after.

*Promotive x Individual Voice*

At the final meeting the day before THON starts, a committee member raised his hand and asked to make a suggestion about the new policy. He then proceeded to explain that he thinks instead of prohibiting people who are entering the BJC from bringing any bags, they can be allowed to bring a small, clear bag no larger than the size of a wristlet. The new suggestion can ensure security in the BJC while minimizing the inconvenience for THON participants.

*Prohibitive x Individual Voice*

At the final meeting before THON starts, a committee member raised his hand and asked to raise concern about the new policy. He then proceeded to explain that people need something to carry their mobile devices, camera, coat, etc. into BJC and the no-bag policy would be too inconvenient and impractical. This new policy will prevent people from fully enjoying the THON experience.

*Promotive x Group Voice*

At the final meeting the day before THON starts, a committee member raised his hand and asked to make a suggestion about the new policy. He then proceeded to explain he and several fellow committee members think instead of prohibiting people who are entering the BJC from bringing any bags, they can be allowed to bring a small, clear bag



no larger than the size of a wristlet. The new suggestion can ensure security in the BJC while minimizing the inconvenience for THON participants.

*Prohibitive x Group Voice*

At the final meeting before THON starts, a committee member raised his hand and asked to raise concern about the new policy. He then proceeded to explain that he and several fellow committee members think people need something to carry their mobile devices, camera, coat, etc. into BJC and the no-bag policy would be too inconvenient and impractical. This new policy will prevent people from fully enjoying the THON experience.

## **Appendix B**

### Scale Items

*Endorsement* (Burriss, 2012) Scale 1-7

1. How likely is it that you will take this person's comments to your supervisors?
2. How likely is it that you will support this person's comments when talking with your supervisors?
3. I think this person's comments should be implemented.
4. I agree with this person's comments.
5. This person's comments are valuable.

*Liking* (Wayne & Ferris, 1990) Scale 1-5

1. How much do you like this subordinate?

2. I think I will get along well with this subordinate.
3. Supervising this subordinate is a pleasure.
4. I think this subordinate would make a good friend.

*Performance* (Burris, 2012) Scale 1-7

1. How would you rate this person's performance based on what you know?
2. If a position were available, I would recommend this person for a promotion.
3. If this person was promoted and you were colleagues, I would expect him to perform in his new position.

*Agreeableness- Big Five Personality Traits Minimarkers* (Saucier, 1994)

1. Sympathetic
2. Warm
3. Kind
4. Cooperative
5. Cold
6. Unsympathetic
7. Rude
8. Harsh

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Key Study Variables

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*Descriptive Statistics of Key Study Variables*

Form of Voice	Number of Voice	N	Business Project Scenario			N	THON Scenario		
			Idea Endorsement	Liking	Performance Rating		Idea Endorsement	Liking	Performance Rating
			M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)		M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)
<u>Promotive</u>	Individual	20	5.66 (0.86)	5.25 (0.74)	5.53 (0.79)	17	5.51 (1.13)	4.60 (0.94)	4.96 (1.09)
	Group	28	5.64 (0.82)	4.95 (0.80)	5.43 (0.74)	32	5.11 (1.34)	4.40 (0.87)	4.64 (0.87)
Prohibitive	Individual	30	5.61 (0.71)	4.51 (0.87)	5.01 (1.06)	21	4.74 (1.27)	4.50 (0.95)	4.42 (0.94)
	Group	21	5.15 (0.76)	4.54 (0.77)	4.98 (0.89)	29	4.57 (1.42)	4.31 (0.86)	4.47 (0.90)