

An investigation of the relationship between perfectionism and ego-depletion in response to failure

Honours Thesis Summary

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Summary

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between perfectionism and ego-depletion in response to failure. Participants were randomly assigned to an ego-depleting, experimental condition, or a control condition as well as a positive or negative feedback condition on a crossing off the letter 'e' task. The positive feedback being informed that they performed very well on the task, and the negative condition being told that they performed poorly and below average. Following the manipulation, all participants completed an anagram solving task to judge the level of ego-depletion, particularly in the failure condition. Participants completed the Ten Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) and the Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (MPS), as well as a manipulation check once all tasks were completed. It was anticipated that participants in the depleting condition would perform poorer than the control condition on the anagram task. Additionally, those who experience the negative feedback would perform poorer on the anagram task compared to the positive feedback due to further ego-depletion effects, and this relationship will be mediated and amplified by level of perfectionism. The hypotheses stated were not supported during analysis with level of perfectionism having no effect on anagram performance, regardless of condition or feedback received. Importantly, level of conscientiousness had a significant negative relationship with anagram performance after receiving the negative feedback.

Key words: *perfectionism, ego-depletion, feedback, conscientiousness*