

I have used these books repeatedly with success with a population of participants with wide ranges of cognition including mild to severe dementia. As Nancy's introduction in her books says, participants are not left out, each one reminisces from their personal experiences and engages in intellectual discussion. In groups I held, participants who initially had no input or did not want to make a judgment, joined peer conversation expressing their personal beliefs and experiences. Even participants with limited verbal expression were able to answer affirmatively or negatively when questions were asked to answer with a yes/no response.

Many memories of past cases or knowing people with similar situations came into discussion. Participants enjoy sharing their knowledge and views of right and wrong. As well as their opinions of what is good and bad in our world. We all connect since having received discipline and consequences at some time in our lives, living in our current government and being part of our world. When discussions are open and everyone is afforded opportunity to express their thoughts, reasons and views to situations, participants are interested and share ideas. If you use any of the books in the series, you will see participants' cognition, self-esteem and engagement enliven as the group becomes absorbed in conversation.

I presented a scale of satisfaction with the product, "You Be the Judge", to my participants at the end of three different groups of this activity. At times some of the participants were the same in the groups and I allowed them to give their rating each time. The scale consisted of a single request: "Please rate how well you enjoyed the product/activity used in your TR program", (see figure 1). Participants were able to circle their answer if they were capable and chose to do so or they could write their answer, point to it, give a verbal answer or nod their head affirmatively or negatively when asked each number."

Therapeutic Recreation Product/Activity Review
Participant Rating

Product/Activity: _____

Please rate how well you enjoyed the product/activity used in your Therapeutic Recreation program by circling your response:

1	2	3
Did Not Enjoy	Somewhat Enjoyed	Completely Enjoyed

Thank you for your time and input.
You help determine quality Therapeutic Recreation for everyone!

The results were no surprise. Overwhelmingly, participants chose #3, that they “completely enjoyed” this program! Only a few participants chose #2, that they “somewhat enjoyed” it and **no** participant chose #1, that they “did not enjoy” it. A big compliment is two-fold: most participants were **not** ready to leave the group after 60 minutes and; they asked when we would engage in the activity **again**.

If you purchase a volume in this series or the whole series, it is definitely worth your TR budget dollar. Try it and then “you be the judge!”