Confusion Between Intentional and Non-intentional Events

1= the event had no purpose   5 = the event clearly had a purpose

BELIEVERS Mean= 2.82
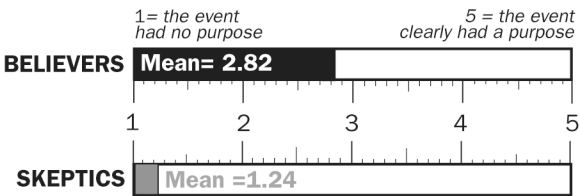
1   2   3   4   5

SKEPTICS Mean =1.24

Figure 4—Assigning Purpose to Natural Events

Six of the 18 intentional/non-intentional events described were *natural* events (such as fog). For each of the three sets of six events there were positive, negative, and neutral outcomes. An example of a natural event is: "You run across a former heart-throb abroad and you start going out together. Was there a purpose in your encounter? (Positive outcome); You meet an old acquaintance and you go for a coffee together. Was there a purpose of your encounter? (Neutral outcome).

1= the event had no purpose   5 = the event clearly had a purpose

BELIEVERS Mean= 2.75

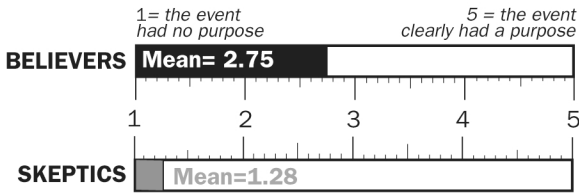1   2   3   4   5

SKEPTICS Mean=1.28

Figure 5—Assigning Purpose to Artificial Events

Six events were described that were *artificial*, such as a server failure, and these events also had a variety of positive, negative, or neutral outcomes. An example statement of an artificial event is: "The breaks of your car fail and you are seriously injured in a crash. Did the breaks fail for a purpose?" (Negative outcome); and "A server fails and you cannot send or receive email for two days. Did the server fail for a purpose?" (Neutral outcome).

1= the event had no purpose   5 = the event clearly had a purpose

BELIEVERS Mean= 3.00

1   2   3   4   5
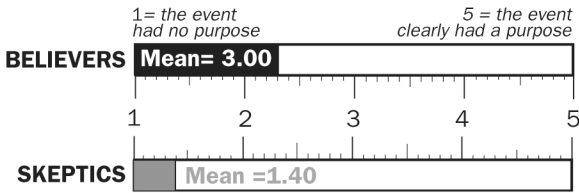
SKEPTICS Mean =1.40

Figure 6—Assigning Purpose to Random Events

Six of the events were *random,* such as dealing cards in a card game. Like the two catagories above these events could have a positive, negative or neutral outcome. An example statement of a random event is: "Because fog delays the departure of your plane you meet a person at the airport and become engaged after a year. Did the fog have a purpose?" (Positive outcome); and "You catch bacteria while traveling abroad and fall ill for a long time. Was there a purpose in getting the germ? (Negative outcome).