"Banger-ness" vs. "Bop-ocity":
Teaching Conceptual and Operational Definitions Through Colloquialism
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Activity Objectives

1. Establish a clear understanding of conceptual and operational definitions
2. Develop conceptual definitions for songs that are "bangers" and songs that are "bops"
3. Develop operational definitions for bangers & bops based on conceptual definitions
4. Categorize stimuli based on operational definitions

Resources
Original Inspiration

A Very Serious Investigation Into The Difference Between 'Bops', 'Bangers', And What 'Slaps' by Jared Richards (October 2018)
https://junkee.com/banger-bops-slaps-definition/177204

Sample Student Handout:

📄 BangersBopsNITOPStudentHandout
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LgtxJkMZ3MjS0b5lztRkN7NbhjM1ebdFLqcd9x23eIQ/edit?usp=sharing

Sample Playlist:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzmQWQFeuXNAzD2XzsyQCv0TjzXorHNqv

Other Playlist Source Ideas:

- Pick YOUR favorites!
- Billboard Top 100 lists (by genre, decade, year, etc.)
- Student-generated ideas (e.g. "Share a song that helps you get you motivated/makes you feel good.")

Some Considerations

- This is a flexible activity! Try this same activity with a different set of closely-related but distinguishable colloquialisms. Here are some ideas recently generated by our students (2021-2022).
  - *"lit" vs. "fire"*
  - *"curve" vs. "brushed"*
  - *"bussin'" vs. "wild"*
  - *"vibing" vs. "a mood"*
  - *"dope" vs. "sick"*
  - *"hits" vs. "goes hard"*
- Note that language changes quickly, so these lists of example terms will need to be updated as time goes on. (Students are a GREAT resource for identifying these phrases. Ask them!)
- Keep track of student-generated bangers and bops from the current iteration to generate a sample playlist for next term.

Example Lesson Plan (80 minute class)

20 min   Lecture
                        What is a conceptual definition?
                        What is an operational definition?
45 min   Banger/Bop Activity
                        15 min -   In small groups: conceptually define a banger.
                                            Conceptually define a bop. Your definition should:
                                                a. Define and describe what a banger or bop is
                                                b. List components that make a banger a banger or a
                                                     bop a bop
                                                c. Explain how it relates to other types of songs (e.g.,
                                                     are bangers and bops mutually exclusive? How are
                                                     they the same/different?)
                                                d. Give examples
                                            Discuss & refine as a class
                        15 min -   In small groups - operationalize conceptual definitions
                                            What criteria would you use to decide which category a
                                            song is in? Conceptual definitions should be specific - how
                                            precisely will you measure 'banger-ness' and 'bop-ocity'
                                            Discuss as a class
                                                        Potential Points:
                                                                Validity and reliability
                                                                Types of data
                                                                Refining definitions in the face of new
                                                                evidence
                        15 min -   Apply your operational definitions - Instructor provides
                                            a playlist of songs. In small groups, students are asked to
                                            sort the songs into Bangers vs. Bops using their
                                            operational definitions
15 min   Reflection questions - can be written (e.g., an 'exit ticket'), class or small group
                  discussion, or homework assignment
                        How well did your conceptual definition match your operational definition?
                        Did you run into any issues when you tried to apply your conceptual
                        definition? (E.g.Were there songs that didn't fit either category? Were
                        there songs that you thought were bops but actually met the criteria for a
                        banger?)
                                    What issues might you run into when developing conceptual and
                                    operations definitions to measure psychological constructs?
                        What makes a good definition (of either/both types)?

Please feel free to email us with questions, new ideas, success stories,
or suggested updates!