Related Self-Motives? Examining the Association between Self-Verification and Self-Handicapping
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Self-Verification
- Refers to the tendency to seek feedback consistent with one’s self-concepts
  - Humans feel discomfort when others view us differently than we view ourselves (Swann, Pelham, & Krull, 1989)
- Individuals are motivated to self-verify to maintain a sense of control and predictability (Swann et al., 1992)
- Individuals self-verify for both negative and positive traits
- More likely to self-verify for traits felt to be personally important and about which we are certain (e.g., Swann et al.; Swann, 1990; Swann et al., 1992a).

Self-Handicapping (cont’d)
- Lowers expectations of others before one performs a task to reduce any negative feelings in the event of failure
- People self-handicap when they are uncertain of abilities and are motivated to defend insecurely held positive self-image (Jones & Berglas, 1978)

Hypothesis
Individuals who self-handicap are less likely to self-verify and individuals who self-verify are less likely to self-handicap.

Method
Questionnaires were distributed to Psychology 101 students at the University of Dayton
- Self-Handicapping Scale (Jones & Rhodewalt, 1982)
- Feedback Seeking Questionnaire (Swann, Wenzlaff, Krull & Pelham, 1992)
- Self-Attributes Questionnaire (Pelham & Swann, 1989)

Results
- For the emotional stability trait, feedback seeking was positively associated with certainty when high in self-handicapping
- For the emotional stability trait, self-handicapping was negatively associated with certainty when low in feedback seeking
- For the common sense trait, feedback seeking and importance scores were positively associated when self-handicapping was high

Discussion
- Results do not support the hypothesis
- Directions to the Feedback Seeking Questionnaire seem to have been confusing
- Additional research is needed to further understand the association between self-verification and self-handicapping