

Meaning Making – Morals
Banyard, Hamby, & Grych, 2013;
Hamby, Thomas, Banyard, de St. Aubin, & Grych, 2015

Surprisingly few measures exist regarding the sources of psychological meaning in people’s lives. Schnell (2009, 2011) has conducted some of the only research in this area, developing an attitudinal/perceptual measure of the importance of more than two dozen possible domains of meaning making. For example, “Success is what matters to me” or “I am an achievement-oriented person.” Her measure contains 141 items. We used her ideas as a foundation for developing behavioral markers of creating meaning in one’s life. This Meaning Making subscale assesses the extent to which individuals find meaning through adhering to moral or ethical standards of behavior.

Development and validation of measure in pilot study and main sample: To establish reliability and validity for new and adapted items, we conducted a pilot study with 104 participants from the same community as the main sample, recruited through a local email classifieds list and word-of-mouth. In the main sample of over 2500 participants, we conducted domain-level factor analyses for all meaning making strengths. Of the 31 items from the original Meaning Making Practices scale used in the main study, four were maintained in this subscale. Internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for the pilot and main samples are 0.83 and 0.81, respectively. Validity was established in the main sample with moderate correlations with other measures of meaning making strengths, such as Purpose ($r = .45$), Religious Meaning-Making ($r = .41$), in addition to outcome measures such as Post-Traumatic Growth ($r = .49$) and the Awe Index ($r = .42$).

Scoring: Each answer category was assigned a value from 4 to 1. The total score can be a sum or mean of all items. We used z-scores of the scale score in analyses. Higher scores indicate higher levels of moralistic meaning making.

Citation: Banyard, V., Hamby, S., Grych, J., (2013). *Meaning Making Practices Scale*. Sewanee, TN: Life Paths Research Program. doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.2007.5689

Hamby, S., Thomas, L.A., Banyard, V., de St. Aubin, E., & Grych, J. (2015). Generative roles: Assessing sustained involvement in generativity. *American Journal of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences*, 2(2), 24-32.

Sources: Schnell, T. (2009). The Sources of Meaning and Meaning in Life Questionnaire (SoMe): Relations to demographics and well-being. *The Journal Of Positive Psychology*, 4(6), 483-499.

Schnell, T. (2011). Individual differences in meaning-making: Considering the variety of sources of meaning, their density and diversity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 51, 667-673.

1. I make sure that in most situations I am following the rules.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1

2. I make sure that each day I am doing the right thing.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1

3. The choices I make in my daily life are based on traditional values.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1

4. It is important to teach children that it is important to follow the rules.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1