Thought Paper #4: Concepts - - > Variables, Measures, and Attributes

For this week’s thought paper, you need to apply the material in Chapter four to your research project. You should have a solid research question and a good understanding about the concepts important to your project. Write a paper that covers these topics:

1. Describe the important concepts related to your paper
2. Describe the conceptualization of each of those concepts
3. Describe the operationalization you’ll be using as you move those concepts from the abstract to the ‘real’ world.
4. Identify the variables you are using. Please note which are independent, dependent and control variables. Also describe the source from which you decided to include each (not a literal citation, but did your decision to include a particular concept - - > variable come from the literature? Theory? Your own curiosity? Explain why you think each is important to include.
5. Identify the measure(s) associated with each variable. In our case, the measures are survey questions. Offer draft survey questions (we will polish them at a later time). In some cases, you will have multiple measures for a single concept. Explain why. Also, please address the face validity and reliability of each of your measures.
6. Describe each set of response categories associated with each measure. What level of measurement are you using for each? Identify your thoughts in terms of getting the best level of measurement and respondent burden. Identify your thought process to ensure each set of response categories are both mutually exclusive and exhaustive.

While this paper will be in text, feel free to provide figures or illustrations describing this process of taking abstract concepts and making them useable measures.