Section 3

SUPERVISOR: Hi, Joanna, good to meet you. Now, before we discuss your new research project, I'd like to hear something about the psychology study you did last year for your Master's degree. So how did you choose your subjects for that?

JOANNA: Well, I had six subjects, all professional musicians, and all female. Three were violinists and there was also a cello player and a pianist and a flute player. They were

(1) ……..…….……and they'd done quite extensive tours in different continents, and quite a few had won prizes and competitions as well.

SUPERVISOR: And they were quite young, weren't they?

JOANNA: Yes, between 25 and 29 - the mean was 27.8. I wasn't (2) ……, but this is something that's just taken for. granted these days, and they all had.

SUPERVISOR: Right. Now you collected your data through telephone interviews, didn't you?

JOANNA: Yes. I realised if I was going to interview leading musicians, it'd only be possible over the phone because they're so busy. I recorded them using a telephone recording adaptor. I'd been worried about the quality, but it worked out all right. I (3) ……..……..……with each subject, sometimes longer.

SUPERVISOR: Did doing it on the phone make it more stressful?

JOANNA: I'd thought it might it was all quite informal though and in fact they seemed very keen to talk. And I don't think using the phone meant I got less rich data rather the opposite in fact.

SUPERVISOR: Interesting. And you were looking at how performers dress for concert performances?

JOANNA: That's right. My research investigated the way players see their role as a musician and how this is linked to the type of clothing they decide to wear. (4) ……..……..….. When I started I was more interested in trying to investigate the impact of what was worn on those listening, and also whether someone

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like a violinist might adopt a different style of clothing from say, someone playing the flute or the trumpet.

SUPERVISOR: It's interesting that the choice of dress is up to the individual, isn't it?

JOANNA: Yes, you'd expect there to be rules about it in orchestras, but that's quite rare

SUPERVISOR: You only had women performers in your study. Was that because male musicians are less worried about fashion?

JOANNA: I think a lot of the men are very much influenced by fashion, but in (5) ……..……. they'd really upset audiences if they strayed away from quite narrow boundaries.

SUPERVISOR: Hmm. Now, popular music has quite different expectations. Did you read Mike Frost's article about the dress of women performers in popular music?

JOANNA: No.

SUPERVISOR: He points out that a lot of female singers and musicians in (6) ……., and wear less feminine clothes, like jeans instead of skirts, and he suggests this is because otherwise they'd just be discounted as trivial.

JOANNA: But you could argue they're just wearing what's practical ... I mean, a pop-music concert is usually a pretty energetic affair.

SUPERVISOR: Yes, he doesn't make that point, but I think you're probably right. I was (7) ……..……at a musical performance when it came to the choice of dress.

JOANNA: The subjects I interviewed felt this was really important. It's all to do with what we understand by performance as a public event. They believed the audience had certain expectations and it was up to them as performers to (8) ……..……

SUPERVISOR: …they weren't afraid of looking as if they'd made an effort to look good

JOANNA: Mmm. I think in the past the audience would have had those expectations of one another too, but that's not really the case now, not in the UK anyway.

SUPERVISOR: No.

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JOANNA: And I also got interested in what sports scientists are doing too, with regard to clothing.

SUPERVISOR: (9) ……..……, aren't they, because the movements they carry out are very intensive and repetitive, so I'd imagine some features of sports clothing could (10) ……..……of this sort of thing.

JOANNA: Yes, but musicians don't really consider it. They (11) ……...……, but that's as far as they go.

SUPERVISOR: Anyway, coming back to your own research, do you have any idea where you're going from here?

JOANNA: I was thinking of doing a study using an audience, including ...

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