

Due Friday, April 22

Math 111 - Project 2

Find a recent article from a newspaper or magazine that reports the results of a major study. Read the article and decide whether the article gives the reader enough information to tell if the study is valid or not. Does that article convince you that the statistics are good statistics? If, in your opinion there is information missing in the article, generate a list of questions that would help you further assess the validity of the study's conclusions. In your report, make sure you answer the following questions.

1. What was the target population of the study?
2. What was the sample size and how was the sample selected?
3. Were all of the measured quantities clearly defined?
4. Did the article talk about the source of the data or how the measurements were made?
5. Who performed the study? Was it a scientist, government organization, think tank? Does that person or organization have a well known agenda?
6. Did the study authors or the reporter jump to any unwarranted conclusions or confuse correlation with causation. If so, explain.

Your paper should be about one page long. Good sources for articles are: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, The Economist, Science Daily. Be sure that you pick an article with statistics in it. Almost all major health or social science (psychology, sociology, criminology etc.) studies rely on statistics. Any of these would make a good choice. Check with me (*by Friday, April 15*) if you aren't sure whether your article is a good one. When you turn in your paper, make sure you attach a copy of the article that describes the study you are reporting.

Grading

Your grade on this paper will be determined by the following factors.

- Do you give a good (quick) explanation of the paper your a reviewing.
- Did you address the questions above in your paper?
- Do your answers make sense?
- Does your writing flow?
- Did you attach a copy of the article you selected?