

Elementary Statistics

Data Report Guidelines

The goal of this data report is for you to become familiar with analyzing research projects and data that you are presented with in everyday life and/or in your particular field. To achieve this goal, you need to spend time looking through articles that present data in peer reviewed journal, newspapers, magazines, online news sources etc., and choose one to analyze. You should write a 2 to 3 page report on the data presented in your article. Feel free to show me your article ahead of time and discuss your project with me. You include a link or attach your article to your data report when you turn it in. Use the following questions to guide your analysis.

- What is the driving research question and/or hypotheses of the research (whether implicit or explicit)?
- How were the data collected? If this is a sample, how was the sample taken? What is the population? Are there any problems with the way that the sample was taken?
- What independent/explanatory and dependent/response variables are being measured? Are there any problems with the way the variables are measured? Are the variables categorical or quantitative?
- How does the article present the data? Are the data presented with graphs, with numbers, or both? Does the article give you a sense of the center, spread, and distribution of the data?
- What do the results show?
- What are the overall findings and conclusions from this research?
- What more information do you need to know about this research and the data?
- Are there ways that this research project and/or the presentation of the data could be improved?