

POS 3713: Homework Assignment #1
Fall 1999
Due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, September 21st

Instructions: Type your answers to the following questions.

1) Proposition: Democratic nations are more likely to experience higher rates of economic growth than non-democratic nations.

- a) What are the 2 variables in this theory?
- b) Give one measure that you would use for each variable.
- c) Which variable is independent? Which is dependent?
- d) What is the causal direction of this relationship (i.e., positive or negative)? Why?
- e) Write out one hypothesis that you would test, given this theory (using the measures you have selected). What is the null hypothesis?

2) What is a random sample? Suppose you wanted to conduct a study of FSU students' attitudes about parking on campus. How could you collect a random sample? (Assume that you cannot simply go to the registrar and get a complete listing of all enrolled students.) What problems might you encounter with your designs for random sampling?

3) Choose *one* of the following research topics. Your task is to construct a bibliography with *10 total entries*. At least four of the entries must be journal articles. Start by doing a subject or keyword search in WebLuis. You can also do a search under the article index (look under databases in WebLuis). Once you find a few books or articles that are relevant to your topic, find them in the library and look in their bibliographies for further citations. You can also do a search on the internet using www.webofscience.com (use the Social Science Citation Index), Lexis-Nexis, or other valid internet source.

Topics

Campaign spending
Presidential approval (popularity)
Democratization
Political Knowledge
Military Alliances
Congressional Roll Call Voting
Presidential Elections
Environmental Policy
Ethnic Conflict
International Trade