**Lab Assignment 1**

Psychology Research Methods

Due at the start of lab on 2/19 (moved per class vote)

**Overview:**

This assignment is designed to test basic SPSS skills and get you brainstorming for Paper 1. Work independently on this assignment, even if you plan to have a partner for Paper 1. Your assignment should include the following:

* Typed cover sheet
* Type your answers to all questions, using the template provided (final page of this document). Hand-written answers will not be accepted.
* After the end of the assignment, print and attach all of your Output (the charts and graphs SPSS gives you when you perform a statistical operation)
* Follow the APA Style guidelines noted in the tutorial

**Problems:**

1) Review the instructions for Paper 1 (see “Due” column of Course Calendar). Read the instructions and Feedback Form (score sheet) in their entirety. In your own words, summarize the entire assignment in 4-5 sentences.

2) What type of weakness is it if a student conducts analyses that include fewer than five continuous variables – Negligible, Minor, Moderate, Major, or a Fatal Flaw?

3) What type of weakness is it if a student has multiple sentence fragments?

4) Go to Blackboard and download the Data Set Summary Sheet (Canvas 🡪 Data Files 🡪 Data\_Set\_Summary\_Sheet.xlsx). Open it in Excel and review it in detail, as most students will use one of these data sets to conduct their Paper 1 analyses. The Data Files folder contains detailed data dictionaries for each data set, in case you’re curious what particular questions were asked to assess a particular construct, whether variables are categorical or continuous, etc. Find a data set you like. Identify five continuous variables that you think should be correlated, with the stipulation that 2-3 of the five should, at least in your opinion, be causes (independent variables), and the other 2-3 should be effects (dependent variable). In complete sentences, indicate which data set you found interesting, which five variables you’re considering, and your theoretical model (which ones you think are better considered causes vs. effects).

5) Using SPSS, summarize the descriptive statistics for each variable (M, SD, low score, high score, and any relevant percentages, such as the percent with the highest score or above a certain threshold). Use complete sentences and follow the APA Style guidelines in the tutorial.

6) Examine the correlations among the five variables. In APA Style, for each independent variable, report its correlations with the dependent variables. Summarize the extent to which your theoretical model appears supported or unsupported.

7) Repeat Steps 4-6 using a different data set.

8) Repeat Steps 4-6 using any data set and variables; however, the choice of five variables cannot be identical to those used in the prior problems and all five variables must be statistically significantly correlated.

Answer Sheet

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| --- | --- |
| Question | Answer |
| 1 (2pts) |  |
| 2 (1pt) |  |
| 3 (1pt) |  |
| 4 (3pts) |  |
| 5 (2pts) |  |
| 6 (3pts) |  |
| 7 (8pts) |  |
| 8 (10pts) |  |