

ACTIVITY 1

PART A – September 27, 2017

Week 1, Wednesday

Due: Wednesday, October 4

Instructions: A hard copy of the final version of Activity #1 is due on Wednesday, October 4 (Week 2). You will be given the activity in parts, but it is your responsibility to keep track of all questions for each representative activity on one document to turn in.

- (1) Work with at least one other student in the classroom. Introduce yourself. In your assignment, let me know who the name of the individual(s) you are working with and write down one interesting fact that you learned about this individual(s).
- (2) Statistics permeate our everyday lives: in the news, in the media, and even on the Internet.

With your partner(s), find at least one example of a poor, bad, or questionable statistic dated in the month of September 2017. Your example may be for a newspaper (e.g., NewYorkTimes.com, LATimes.com), magazine (e.g., economist.com, theatlantic.com) article, or even Internet news sites (e.g., DailyKos.com, Brietbart.com). The example may pertain to any topic, although you are encouraged to find one that deals with politics.

Answer the following on your assignment: Is this statistic an example of a missing number, confusing number, authoritative number, or scary number? Why? Do you see any other problem with the statistic(s)? What constructive criticism could you offer so that the article presents the statistic(s) in a more reasonable way?

- (3) Your topic is “race and ethnicity in politics”.

For the assignment, write down the question you and your partner(s) agreed upon. Do you think your question is narrow enough? If you think through to the “unit of analysis” to where you can measure the concepts in your question, what would your measurements be?

- (4) For the assignment, please write out your directional hypothesis and nondirectional hypothesis.
- (5) What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?