

Phil 12  
Fall 2003

### First Writing Assignment

Write a two page (600 words maximum) tutorial in which you address the question assigned for your section. Your intended audience is a student like yourself but who has not yet studied the topic. You will be evaluated both on the correctness of your answer and on how intelligible it would be to someone new to the material. This means you need to provide a clear exposition and illustrate it with examples (real or made-up). Examples are important in making ideas clear, but be sure to develop the examples. An example does not help if it is not completely clear how it works.

A second way to view the assignment is that you are preparing a study guide for the course—a guide that fully explains key concepts. We may, if the authors agree, distribute some of the best tutorials to members of all sections to use as a study guide for the correlation unit.

You must express ideas in your own words. Do not copy anything from the on-line modules or powerpoints from the lectures. There is no need to quote anyone else—explain everything in your own words.

The assignment is due on Wednesday, November 14. Your section TA will tell you by what time and in what form they want the assignment delivered.

Friday, 9am section:

What is meant by a level of statistical significance (p-value). What considerations should guide one to choose one level rather than another?

Wednesday, 2pm section:

Explain what both base rates and regression to the mean are and the mistakes in correlational reasoning that result from ignoring them.

Wednesday, 3pm section:

How does one make a prediction based on a correlation? Explain all the steps one must take.