

Phil 12  
Winter 2005

### Second Writing Assignment

Write a short paper (1-2 pages, double-spaced, typed) on the question assigned for your section. These are to be turned in at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 3.

A-01. Design an experimental study to determine whether swimming in the Natatorium is a cause of catching colds. Discuss all of the critical factors involved, including how possible confounds are to be controlled for and identify under what conditions you will be able to conclude that swimming in the Natatorium is a cause of catching colds.

A-02. Design a prospective study to determine whether loss of a parent as a child causes substance abuse as a teenager. Discuss all the critical factors involved, including how possible confounds are controlled for and identify under what conditions you will be able to conclude that loss of a parent as a child causes substance abuse as a teenager.

A-03. Design a within-subjects experimental study to determine whether drinking coffee in the evening is a cause of insomnia. Discuss all of the critical factors involved, including how possible confounds are to be controlled for and identify under what conditions you will be able to conclude that drinking coffee in the evening is a cause of insomnia.

A-04. Design a retrospective study to determine whether being a drama major was a causal factor in individuals winning Best Actor or Best Actress in the Academy Awards. Discuss all the critical factors involved in doing the best possible retrospective study as well as what can be concluded from the study depending on its outcome and its limitations.