

Phil 12
Fall 2003

Second 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 Tuesday, November 25. Your section TA will tell you by what time and in what form they want the assignment delivered.

Friday, 9am section:

Explain what a confounding variable is. Describe at least two major strategies for dealing with such variables *and* discuss their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Wednesday, 2pm section:

Explain what is meant by the *validity* of an experiment. Distinguish internal and external validity, giving at least one example of a threat to each and a standard way of addressing that threat.

Wednesday, 3pm section:

Explain the logic of a retrospective study. Discuss in detail when and why such studies are used and what are their strengths and limitations.