**Discussion Posts**

**PURPOSE**

One of the huge benefits of taking a statistics class (over just trying to teach yourself) is being a part of a learning community. We’ll use this discussion board for several purposes, including building towards the learning objectives: to create a space for you to accurately write about statistical concepts, to interpret/understand/evaluate statistical information in media, and to interact respectfully with others in the class. More specifically, it will be a space to discuss some real-world statistics, ask questions, or post resources/tips that have worked for you.

**TASK**

You’ve been split up randomly into small groups for discussion so that a) you can become more comfortable with asking questions in a smaller setting and b) the discussion does not get too huge to follow. Note that I may reassign members of groups as deemed appropriate as the class goes, but the goal is to not mix it up drastically.

The first part of this discussion assignment is for you to post a response to at least one of the following prompts:

* A real-world-inspired prompt relating to the content for that week
* **Connect**: How is a specific concept or term connected to what you already know? Or how can you connect this to a real-world example?
* **Extend**: What new ideas did you get that extended or pushed your thinking in a new direction? What other non-class resources did you find that were helpful for understanding these ideas?
* **Challenge**: What is still challenging or confusing for you? What questions do you now have?

Note: you should clarify which prompt you are responding to. **This first post should be at least 100 words long, is worth 5 points, and is due by Monday at 11:59 PM** [**EDT**](https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/?pl=1&lid=5,4259418,3530597,5368361&h=5&date=6/29/2020%7C3) **each week**.You can post images or multimedia to supplement your posts.

The second part is for you to post a follow-up response to one (1) of your group members. This follow-up post should be thoughtful; you can answer a question, share a resource, or connect/extend from their post. While there is no word count minimum for the follow-up posts, writing “Yeah, I agree,” is not sufficient to earn full points. **This follow-up post is worth 10 points and due by Wednesday at 11:59 PM EDT each week.**

Please note: that means the follow-up post is worth **more** than the first post, so don’t forget to do it! Late submissions will be penalized 2 points per day. I want to encourage you to do your part in building community, so it’s better to turn it in late than to not do it at all.

**CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS**

***The rubric for this discussion assignment can be found on the next page.***

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|  | **Thoroughly Meets Standard** | **Meets Standard** | **Attempts to Meet Standard** | **Does Not Meet Standard** |
| **First Post Content** | **5 points** – Post addresses the prompt with thought, clarity and analysis, showing depth of understanding through application of module content: i.e., from reading material and/or lecture content.  OR  Applies concepts outside of course content that relate to the prompt, demonstrating thoughtful analysis through use of appropriate examples.  OR  Explains the attempts made to understand the concept, which includes seeking out further resources, before asking the question in detail, and specifies what is still confusing or challenging.  Word count for initial post is at least 100 words. | **3 points** - Post addresses a prompt with thought and clarity.  OR  Applies content and material from the course readings and/or lecture content in the post.  OR  Asks the question in detail and specifies what is still confusing or challenging.  Word count for initial post is between 51 and 99 words. | **1 point** – Post attempts to answer a prompt but is not specific or is vague.  OR  Appears somewhat off-topic and/or does not address main point.  OR  Asks a vague question.  Word count for initial post is between 3 and 50 words. | **0 points** - No post is made.  OR  Post is inappropriate and subsequently removed by professor.  Post is only 2 words or fewer. |
| **Follow-up Post Content** | **10 points -** Response includes references to class content AND related content from outside sources.  OR  Promotes further discussion and thought by asking questions of fellow classmates.    Communicates effectively and respectfully with others | **8 points -** Response includes references to class content, either readings or lecture content.  Communicates respectfully with others | **3 points -** Responses are one or two sentences in length.  Does not communicate respectfully with others | **0 points -** No response is made. |

Here is an example of a first post that would earn full points:

“**Challenge**: What is still challenging or confusing for you? What questions do you now have?

“I don’t really understand the difference between categorical variables and nominal scales. I watched the lecture videos again to see if I missed something, but I didn’t hear Dr. Chen say what the difference was. So I looked in the OnlineStatBook.com where it talks about [Levels of Measurement](http://onlinestatbook.com/2/introduction/levels_of_measurement.html) and it only talks about nominal scales, not categorical variables. So then I watched the Khan Academy video on [Identifying individuals, variables and categorical variables in a data set](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/ap-statistics/analyzing-categorical-ap/analyzing-one-categorical-variable/v/identifying-individuals-variables-and-categorical-variables-in-a-data-set). I get that hot vs. cold is categorical. But is it nominal too? I would guess that it is, based on the examples she gave in the lecture videos. So then are they the same thing?”

This post meets the Thoroughly Meets Expectations criteria in the rubric and so would earn full points:

* Explains the attempts made to understand the concept, which includes seeking out further resources, before asking the question in detail, and specifies what is still confusing or challenging.
* Word count for initial post is at least 100 words.