

Assignment #2 –

Summary of a Survey of Consultant Statisticians (The American Statistician. (2006) 60:130-138)

The task: This assignment asks you to write a summary of the TAS article, to be drafted for handing in later this week, Friday, Sept 15. You can submit it electronically if you wish. The 9 page article is to be shortened to no more than two pages, double-spaced. That would be about 1000 words, or less if a table or a graph is included.

Objective: Your target audience is SFU statistics majors, and your objective is to inform them about the content of the article that you feel is relevant to them. You should avoid referring the reader to the original article for details – try to include the most relevant information in your report.

Today: we will discuss the following questions in relation to the assignment:

1. What relevance is the target audience?
2. What are the components of a summary article?
3. How will the methodology be treated?
4. Is it important to say something about the response rate?
5. Are the percentages enough, or do we need to report absolute frequencies?
6. Which tables are the most informative of the survey representativeness?
7. Which tables are the most informative of the survey results?
8. Are there any surprising findings, or findings that would be surprising for stats majors?
9. What is the role of the data-defined clusters? What is cluster analysis?
10. How important is it for this report that the respondents be like the non-respondents, with respect to their potential response?
11. What are the subject area clusters?
12. (p 134) What is power analysis?
13. (p 137) What is data analysis?
14. How does the "discussion" section differ from the "results" section?
15. (p 137) What is a "scientifically constructed sample"?
16. What aspects of this study would a statistics student think was useful information?

Schedule and Due Dates:

The draft submission is due Friday Sept 15 and the final submission is due Thursday, Sept 21. If you try to draft something before Thursday's class, we may be able to help with the Friday submission. Remember that the Friday submission is still a draft and will not be marked, other than to note that you have submitted a draft. You will receive the commented draft on Tuesday Sept 19, and the final submission will be due Thursday, Sept 21, at class.