The Battle of Neighbourhoods

Final Project

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1   Background

The United States of America constitutes a federation of states, each of which has its own capital city. These state capitals are not always the most populous city in the state, but are usually considered the location of each state's legislative, judicial, and executive authority.

Considering the intimate relationship between a state's capital city and the interests of that state, it could be assumed that the state capital is representative of the state in even more ways than those previously mentioned. For example, it could be assumed that culinary specialties of a state may be well represented in its capital city.

On the other hand, modern society is under strong influences toward global homogeneity. Consequently, it could also be assumed that all the capital cities of American states would be very similar in terms of popularly available cuisine.

1.2   Business Problem

Which assumption posited above is accurate? Can each state capital *differentiate themselves* by popular types of restaurant, or do people in state capitals *all prefer the same* types of food? Such an investigation could also produce mixed results, where *some* state capitals are similar to each other, while others stand apart.

1.3   Interest

Observing these trends would provide guidance to a variety of decisions:

- Restaurateurs may understand where to expand without needing to change their menus to suit the local palate.

- Tourists may be enticed to cities for a cuisine they wouldn't easily find elsewhere.

- Anthropologists may recognize patterns in human movement that link groups of state capitals with similar tastes.

- Alex Aklson may allow me to graduate from this course.

Consequently, it can be demonstrated that this is really essential research, and we cannot escape having to go through with it.