Vanderbilt University

Leadership, Policy and Organizations

Class Number 9951

Fall 2018

Assignment 1

For this first assignment, I will ask you to describe a research question and choose a database to work with. We will revise your research question over the coming months, so consider this just a first draft. For next week, write a one page summary that contains the following:

- A problem statement: what is the issue, why is it important?

- A research question: ask a question that will help to illuminate the problem. Your research question should include the population under study, the unit of analysis, and the dependent and independent variables. It should also indicate the type of research (quantiative or qualitative) and the direction of the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

- The data that you wish to use to analyze this question, and if possible, some of the specific variables which you would like to use.

As mentioned, I will ask you to revise this substantially over the course of the semester, so at this point, just do your best to create such a statement.

You will need to know about the questions that were asked to develop the Early Childhood Longitudinal Program, the Education Longitudinal Study, the High School Longitudinal Study or the Programme for International Student Assessment, or another dataset you might want to work with. The questionnaires are here:

- ECLShttp://nces.ed.gov/ecls/instruments2011.asp
- ELS http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/els2002/questionnaires.asp
- HSLS http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/hsls09/questionnaires.asp
- PISA [http://pisa2012.acer.edu.au/downloads.php]

Taking a look at these questionnaires will help to give you an idea of which research questions you may be able to answer using these databases. During the next week, you also should ensure that you have access to Stata and the relevant data:

- ECLS http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/dataproducts.asp/
- HSLS http://nces.ed.gov/edat/
- ELS http://nces.ed.gov/edat/
- PISA http://pisa2012.acer.edu.au/downloads.php

You will need your selected dataset to complete assignments for the course. The first assignment based on these will be due in two weeks. The file should be named as follows:

`assignment1_<lastname>.docx`

All subsequent files to be turned in should be named the same way.