Feedback for Project Number 38

Courtney Villereal

Race and Educational Attainment

***What is their topic on?***

* *Is the title consistent with the topic?*
* *In other words does the title make sense for the project?*

Courtney’s project is titled “Race and Educational Attainment”, which aligns with her project objectives.

***Are the objectives of the project clearly identifiable?***

* *What are they wanting to study?*
* *What is the motivation of this project?*
* *What does the presenter hope to accomplish with this project?*

Courtney’s stated objectives:

* How does race influence educational attainment?
  + The outcomes of post-secondary education
  + The need for higher education

Her motivations are personal; Courtney and her family have literally lived this question, and have experienced the benefits of gaining higher education against the odds.

***What data are used?***

* *What website(s) are scraped?*
* *Are other data brought in from outside sources?*
* *If so, what are they and how do they add to the project?*
* National Center of Education Statistics
  + Rates of high school completion and bachelor’s degree attainment among persons 25 and over, by race/ethinicity and sex
* US Census Bureau
  + Current Population
  + American Community Survey

***What is your overall impression of the project?***

I enjoyed this presentation! It was a great question, Courtney explained it well, I appreciated the personal connection, and I felt she did well at connecting the dots.

I thought it was very interesting that Hispanics have a lower % of bachelors degree than Blacks (19% vs 26%), but higher annual earnings. This hints at systemic barriers to prosperity in addition to education that differ by race/ethnicity. Education is a key part of the solution, but we need to take a look at what else could be holding back both Blacks and Hispanics. That is out of the scope of this project; just something I saw in the data that I took some time to think about. It could have been a nuance to mention in the summary slide.

***Other encouragements/critiques you would like to provide to your colleague in order for them to have a more refined project.***

I liked the formatting of the slides; clean, easy to read and appealing. I did see a couple of typos. Would it have been feasible to keep the blue background consistent throughout the deck?

Regarding the NCES statistics, I was confused about what “class ID” was and would have liked a visual example.

On the Number of respondents slide, some numbers were formatted with commas and others were not.

I think the “Occupation by Race” slides could have been combined into one slide, with race/ethnicity on the X axis and the occupational groups being the components of a stacked bar chart. (Even better, occupation on the X axis and race/ethnicity as the pieces of the stacked bars.) That would also have made it easier to visually compare the four groups.

The last slide with the Bexar County zip codes would have made a pretty cool map. I would have been interested in how my zip code rated. My neigborhood and general area (around Alamo Ranch/Sea World) has a lot of military residents due to it being fairly close to Lackland AFB, so the educational attainment would be influenced by the military community that is stationed here.

I enjoyed your presentation and learned a lot!