

Data Identification Memo

PA 606: Seminar in Quantitative Techniques (Spring 2020)

10 points

Due: April 11, 2020

Topics:

Identifying and describing a data set, discussing how the data relate to your research question, identifying quantitative variables in the data set to use for analysis of the research question

Source:

Using [this webpage](#), identify a data set or use a repository listed here to identify a data set that is useful for answering your research question

Tasks:

Students are required to identify, access, and download a data set with quantitative variables that can be analyzed to answer their research question. In a 1-page memo (bullet-points but full sentences), students should cover the following:

Research Question

- Define the research question (e.g. “variation in X is related to variation in Y ”). Introduce the research question (e.g. why this is an important question personally, academically/theoretically, and practically) with citations describing how the question fits in the literature.

Data Set

- Describe the data set, in general (e.g. source, who collected the data, when were the data collected, how the data were collected, whether the data are a sample or the population, number of variables in the data set, number of observations in the data set, the unit of analysis, etc.)
- Discuss the specific variables used for the research question (e.g. for each variable, describe the attributes, level of measurement, any manipulations required to “fix” the variable, whether the variable will serve as the independent or dependent variable)

Description

- Provide a description of how each of the variables accurately represent the variables/constructs defined by the research question.