

**Soc351 - Week 4 – Paper 1 - Report about Sample**

For this paper, assume that you are interested in estimating the average evaluation score among permanent (tenure and tenure-track) faculty at our fictitious university. To do so, you will draw two different types of samples to find the best available method and make recommendations for future data collection efforts. This paper builds on the previous assignments to provide a chance to illustrate what you've learned and put those skills to use.

Many of the components listed below will be familiar from prior assignments but with slight adjustments. Incorporate feedback you have received on those exercises to strengthen this paper. Use the section headings below in your paper. Some of these sections will be longer than others, but the headings ensure that you cover needed topics.

**Introduction and research question [2 pts]**

- Describe the research question to be addressed by the samples.
- Include a roadmap for where the rest of the paper will take us.

**Target population, sampling frame, and quality and coverage of frame [6 pts]**

- A brief description of the target population should show that you understand what it is and why you need to specify it. Do not give a textbook definition of a target population.
- Describe the structure of the sampling frame you have been provided.
- Evaluate the frame. What quality and coverage issues are present in the frame? How did you decide to deal with these issues? What are the likely impacts of these issues (if any)?

**Mode considerations [4 pts]**

- Describe what survey mode the study will use. Clearly describe benefits and drawbacks of your chosen mode and explain why you have chosen this mode over others.

**Sample design(s) [2 pts]**

- For each of the following samples, describe the sample design, including any elements of stratification or clustering:
  - Simple random sample (n=72)
  - Stratified random sample using college as strata (n=9 within each college)

**Results [6 pts]**

- For the SRS and stratified sample described above, provide summary statistics (mean and standard error) on the key variable for the total population.
- Describe what the estimates tell us. Discuss any differences observed between the sample statistics and describe why those differences might exist.
- Briefly revisit how sample frame quality and coverage may be influencing your results.

**Summary and conclusion [4 pts]**

- Very briefly summarize the different sections of the report: revisit the research question, sample frame considerations, mode choice, sample designs, and results.
- Based on what you have learned from this portion of the course and this exercise, state what recommendations you have for doing a similar study in the future.

**References and writing [6 pts]**

- Use standard ASA style (same as that used in POQ) for citations and references.
- Use simple words and simple sentences. Avoid jargon. Get right to the point.
- This report should be no longer than 1250 words (excluding tables, references, and the appendix).