

# MSSP Consulting: Limited Duration Project

## Description and Intended Scope

**Client:**

**MSSP Team:**

**Intake Date:**

**Purpose of the consulting:** The purpose of this consulting arrangement is 1) to train both MSSP and PhD students on the process of statistical consultation and 2) to provide a service to improve the quantitative aspects of research/projects on Boston University's campus. Student consultants will be monitored by MSSP faculty in order to help the consultants provide their best possible service. Nevertheless, we ask that you understand that students are not (yet!) professional consultants and we thank you for your patience and cooperation in this regard.

**Scope of the project:** The project described below has been approved for what we call "limited duration" consultation. As the name suggests, such projects are intended to be fairly focused, with a total duration of no more than 10 student hours worth of work. Consultation will involve MSSP student consultants and PhD leaders, supervised by MSSP program faculty. An initial intake meeting should have been held in the MSSP Conference Room at 2 Cummington Mall and additional meetings, as needed, will be arranged at the mutual convenience of the client and the student consultants.

### Project description:

A survey on 700 undergraduate students from Boston University and East Carolina University about humor study were completed. The survey includes 35 jokes that split into two sections: 32 compose "Study 1" and 3 jokes compose "Study 2".

Students were supposed to rate the funny level of jokes from 1(not funny) to 5(funny) and score the offensive levels of the jokes from study 2 from 1(not offensive) to 5(offensive).

The client would like to know:

- The difference between male and female appreciation of humor. (main objective)
- Does the gender of the joke teller influence the offensiveness ratings.(EDA)
- Does the influence described above have a stronger effect on female than male.(EDA)

### Initial milestone:

To address the client needs, our proposal is to provide the following by MM/DD/YYYY.

- *A R markdown Report addressing the main objective discussed above*
- *Code*
- *Analysis*
- *Report*

**Attribution:** When the scope of the work is of 'limited duration' but nevertheless is used in any sort of academic product (e.g., presentation, project, abstract, or publication), we would ask that

you please include an appropriate acknowledgment. For example, clients may include “We acknowledge the help of [NAME] of the MSSP statistical consulting service under the guidance of Professor [NAME].” as a footnote accompanying grant support and related<sup>1</sup>.

**Modification of Intended Scope of Work:** At any time during this process if both parties mutually agree that the above proposal is suboptimal in addressing the client needs we leave open the possibility of holding additional discussions to alter the above proposal. Consultations anticipated to require substantially more than roughly 10 hours of work may be recommended for collaborative consulting. Evaluation of such recommendations typically will include a discussion of co-authorship on resulting end-products.

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<sup>1</sup> We explicitly do not insist upon co-authorship for projects of ‘limited duration’ type -- although, of course, if the conventions of your field permit, co-authorship for at least a subset of the consulting team is always greatly appreciated. This MSSP policy is intended to allow clients maximum flexibility in seeking out and benefiting from our statistical consulting work while, at the same time, promoting best practice regarding academic intellectual property. Our perspective is informed by the [American Statistical Association's guide \*When You Consult a Statistician ... What to Expect\*](#), which states that any such product “should acknowledge the participation of the statistician, consistent with the value of that participation.”