

Application exercise 1: Scientific studies in the press

Below are two studies published in peer reviewed journals, along with their media coverage. You are asked to question a series of questions about each.

It is possible that the media article doesn't provide the relevant information to answer certain question(s). If so, refer to the original study. You should not need to read the entire paper. Simply find the information that will help you answer the questions.

1 Haters gonna hate, study confirms

Media coverage:

Haters Are Gonna Hate, Study Confirms

By Katy Waldman

Published: August 28, 2013 on Slate

Link: <http://slate.me/1dr5XPE>

Original study:

Hepler, J., & Albarracin, D. (2013). "Attitudes without objects: Evidence for a dispositional attitude, its measurement, and its consequences". *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 104(6), 1060.

Link: <https://sakai.duke.edu/x/oIukKJ>

2 Rich more likely to take candy from babies

* Focus only on the candy study.

Media coverage:

Study: Rich more likely to take candy from babies

By Ezra Klein

Published: February 27, 2012 on WaPo

Link: <http://wapo.st/Am20Bk>

Original study:

Piff, Paul K., et al. "Higher social class predicts increased unethical behavior." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109.11 (2012): 4086-4091. Link: <http://www.pnas.org/content/109/11/4086.full.pdf>

3 Questions

1. What are the cases?
2. What is (are) the response variable(s) in this study?
3. What is (are) the explanatory variable(s) in this study?
4. Does the study employ random sampling? How about random assignment?
5. Is this an observational study or an experiment? Explain your reasoning.
6. Can we establish a causal link between the explanatory and response variables?
7. Can the results of the study be generalized to the population at large?