GEQ1000 Asking Questions Economics (Social Science) Segment

Video 1.7 About Reading 1

Hi, in this video I would like to talk briefly about the reading by Charles Wheelan for this segment.

Wheelan is a senior lecturer at the Rockefeller Center of Public Policy in Dartmouth College. He was also formerly a correspondent for the Economist magazine. Perhaps that's where he honed a witty, conversational style that he uses in a series of highly successful "Naked" books.

Your reading is Chapter 13 in Naked Statistics, and it has quite a provocative subtitle – "Will going to Harvard change your life?" Wheelan talks about studies that attempt to measure treatment effects, using the methods we have seen in the videos, such as randomized trials, regression discontinuity, and differences in differences.

But he also talks about studies that use other methods not discussed in my videos. To understand these methods, and to do your quiz assignment, you will want to ask yourself the questions that we have discussed in the previous video.

Have fun reading!