

Great Plains Sociologist

Volume 10

Article 1

1997

Front Matter

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(1997) "Front Matter," *Great Plains Sociologist*: Vol. 10 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/greatplainssociologist/vol10/iss2/1>

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The Great Plains Sociologist

Volume 10

Number 2

Spring 1998

Official Journal of the Great Plains Sociological Association

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The following guidelines are offered to authors who wish to submit work to the GPS for publication:

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2. We are unable to publish lengthy articles; brevity is required. Manuscripts should be in the range of 10 to 15 journal pages, with an absolute limit of 20 journal pages.
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Data Analysis Made Easy: An Undergraduate Student's Guide to Choosing Appropriate Statistical Tests for Social Research.

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Abstract

This article is written as a guide for undergraduate students in using statistics in the social sciences. Some general guidelines are provided for deciding which statistic to use with different types of data (nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio). Four sections are presented: identifying variables, choosing appropriate statistics, computation, and understanding results. This article is not written as a "nuts and bolts" guide to teaching all of statistics but instead is a guide to help students. Instructors of this material may also benefit from these discussions.

Many students in sociology, psychology, and other areas of social sciences and education often regard a course in quantitative research methods as their toughest class. This is usually not because they lack adequate knowledge of research procedures, but because they are generally not well prepared for quantitative work. They lack adequate statistical preparation; hence, research methods cause fear. In my experience teaching quantitative research methods and assisting students in research, I have discovered that the problems most students have are basic, and when they are guided through these problems, a magical bulb lights in their heads, making data analysis easy and fun to conduct.

This article is written for undergraduate students in research methods to provide some guidance on how to resolve some of their common problems. It is not intended to teach the nuts and bolts of statistical data analysis. Rather, it is intended as an aid to help