

Critical Reasoning/Statistics WS 7-1 May 10, 211

- I. A. (Individually) follow the powerpoint review/mini-lecture about the answers for today's assignment. Put a check ✓ against largely correct answers, an X against largely wrong answers and a question mark ? if you aren't sure

II Lecture/Discussion on Correlation Arguments. .

- III. In small groups Indicate whether these passages contain a faulty move from correlation to cause. If so, state your criticism. If you are claiming that a correlation might be due to an X-factor, say what this X-factor might be, and explain how it could account for the correlation.


1. Texting while driving has been correlated with traffic accidents. So texting while driving causes traffic accidents.
2. Staying happy and positive can help ward off heart disease, a new study has suggested...The new research showed that people who are usually happy, enthusiastic and content are less likely to develop heart disease than those who tend not to be happy.
3. Seattle(AP)—**Study Links Homicide with TV Use** Television viewing “is a factor” in about half of the 20,000 homicides and many other violent crimes that occur each year in the United States, according to a psychiatrist who studied statistical links between homicides and the rise in television ownership. The study, published Tuesday in the April issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, is billed by the University of Washington as the first study ever to look at the statistical relationships between exposure to television and acts of violence for the entire country.

The study by Dr. Brandon Centerwall, a member of the psychiatry faculty at the University of Washington School of Medicine, also indicates that as many as half of other violent crimes—including rapes and assaults—are related to exposure to television. “Television is a factor in approximately 10,000 homicides each year in the United States,” Centerwall told a news conference Tuesday. “While television clearly is not the sole cause of violence in our society, and there are many other contributing factors, hypothetically if television did not exist there would be 10,000 fewer homicides a year.”

To arrive at this conclusion, Centerwall studied the white population of South Africa, where television was not introduced until 1975. Using statistics from 1945 to 1974, he compared homicide rates among South African whites to the rates among U.S. whites and the entire Canadian population. He found that homicides remained roughly flat in South Africa before television was introduced. In the United States and Canada, however, homicide rates doubled within 20 years after the widespread introduction of television, Centerwall said. It took Centerwall seven years to complete his study.

Centerwall said he hypothesized that if television ownership is followed by an increase in violence, then those populations that had television earlier should have had an earlier increase in violence. He tested his theory by comparing the change in homicide rates among white and minority populations in the United States. According to Centerwall, televisions were widespread in American white households about five years before they appeared in minority homes. Accordingly, homicide rates among minorities rose four years after the rates went up among whites, he said.

Centerwall said regions of the United States that had widespread television before the rest of the country also saw earlier increases in homicide rates. “There is a strong relationship between when a region acquired television and when its homicide rates went up,” he said. According to Centerwall, the homicide rates among South African whites in 1983—the last year for which statistics were available—were 56 percent higher than in 1974—the year before the introduction of television, indicating a trend similar to what occurred in the United States after the introduction of television.

 Assignment for Friday May 13. : **Review C&P Chapter 10, Submit: Exercise 9.1 #2,#4,#6,#8,#10**