Reflection

At Longwood University the course Statistics for Social Sciences is offered to those in the Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology department. In this course, I have learned the basics of statistics. During the class, students learned three ways to do most of the statistics covered in the semester. The three methods of completing a statistical problem were by hand, through RStudio, and through SPSS. Not all teachers teach three separate ways of learning and understanding statistical problems, and it was a really phenomenal way to learn it all.

Through this course I also learned how to use statistics for answering research questions. Before this class I assumed research was qualitative and the parts that were quantitative were based on percentages of who answered what. From the class before this which was about completing a research project, I had a research question about if the activities sent home would improve family involvement. Through learning about many types of statistical tests I was able to use multiple tests to test my hypothesis of is the Sugar Writing Activity increases family involvement. Testing this hypothesis allowed me to understand that statistics can be used for research.

Learning about how to complete multiple types of statistical test and how to use them for research matters personally to me because it makes me a more marketable employee. Having this knowledge and a manual made throughout the class gives me advantages in the job market for sociology research positions. I am now able to work statistics in three ways and can use those skills when evaluating social sciences research that has been done. This opens up opportunities to me for jobs that without this class I wouldn’t be qualified for.

Learning multiple types of statistical tests and how to use them for research matters because business and communities depend on it. Business such as Police Department and how they have a job for using statistics to see where crime is happening and to see what type of crime is most prevalent. Another business that depends on statistics is shipping companies who must see the statistics of what the likelihood an item is to be ordered. Communities use statistics and social sciences research to see what the community needs and if anything, that has changed has modified the community in a better way.

With learning many statistical tests and how to use them for social science research I plan to use these skills to boost my resume and to investigate other job options I had not considered before. Before this class I thought I would become a paralegal or work in law enforcement now I want to explore other options that could include statistics. I found that this is much more interesting to me for a career because it can help people without putting a ton of pressure on myself. This class and what I have learned from it has truly changed how I look at the social sciences and how they can used.