Haley Schultz

SOCL 346

Reflection

My experience in Statistics for Social Sciences has helped me further my abilities in analyzing and reporting data. I have taken other statistics classes, but I feel as though I gained the most information from this one in particular. I feel as though this class provided me with more tools and skills to further my research career.

I am now able to use and understand R, SPSS, and Excel in terms of data analysis and inferential statistics. Through sitting in class and working through different statistical programs, I have gained skills such as the ability to convey complex statistical information to a diverse audience, be able to think analytically, use different sampling techniques, and describe and analyze quantitative data. These skills will further my career in graduate research and in future jobs.

Although nervous in the beginning, I am grateful to have taken this class because of how much of it is transferable to different situations and environments such as graduate school, jobs, and independent research. This class is a fundamental pillar in research in sociology and psychology. I am able to transfer many of these skills to other majors and classes.

One challenge, I encountered this semester was having to learn R from scratch. I have learned how to do things through SPSS, but I did not mind the change. R was easy to learn and I was able to use the program at home rather than the library. I also was able to help my peers with certain problems they were having with the programs. Also, teaching something to others, helps me learn and understand something even better.

Overall, I really enjoyed this class and being able to analyze the data that we collected ourselves was a great learning experience. I hope to take these skills with me and apply them to other research topics.