

Flash Data Collection and Analysis: A First Day Activity

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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Abstract

This first day activity for an introductory class is designed to introduce students to the discipline of sociology, particularly its research methods. Students engage in "flash data collection" by quickly filling out a card about a classmate and collecting data on their attributes, then they use that data to draw inferences about their subjects on a variety of behavioral outcomes. This activity introduces concepts such as variables, attributes, correlation/causation, and the role of empirical data collection and analysis in the discipline of sociology.

Details

Subject Areas: Introduction to Sociology/Social Problems

Resource Types: Class Activity

Class Levels: College 100

Class Sizes: Any

Usage Notes

This activity is designed to take about twenty minutes of class time on the first day of the term. I have used it in classes ranging in size from thirty-five to ninety students, but it could be adapted for other sizes. The attached file includes slides and a sample spreadsheet assuming a class of ninety students using a random name generator.

Learning Goals and Assessments

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this activity, students will have been introduced to the concepts of variables, attributes, correlation and causation, and the role of empirical data collection and analysis in the discipline of sociology.

ASSESSMENTS

Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the concepts listed above by using them appropriately in Phase 3 of the exercise.

Resource Files

DOCX

DOCX

PPTX

XLSX