

Research Module I Assignment

Your assignment is to complete and submit a short (no longer than two-page) report on our first research module. To do so, follow these simple instructions:

- Review the article by DeNeve (1999), which summarizes the results of a meta-analysis of the relationship between personality and subjective well-being, and review the text reading on personality traits.
- Identify a single question that can be asked of the data collected for this project. That question should take the form: *"Is X related to Y?"* or *"Do these two groups differ in Z?"* Our research is looking primarily at the relationship of personality and happiness, although it also includes helping behavior judgments and background variables (gender, class year). Respondents completed scales measuring four personality variables, seven aspects of happiness, and four helping behavior questions. The variables included in our data base are listed below.
 - SM = Self-Monitoring [see Gleitman et al., p. 560]
 - E = Extraversion
 - N = Neuroticism
 - C = Conscientiousness
 - Happy = Happiness Face Rating [1 = sad, 4 = neutral, 7 = happy]
 - AU = Autonomy [self-determination and independence]
 - EM = Environmental Mastery [sense of control and competence]
 - PG = Personal Growth [feeling of continued development]
 - PR = Positive Relations with Others [warm, trusting relationships]
 - PiL = Purpose in Life [goals in life and directedness]
 - SA = Self-Acceptance [positive attitude toward self]
 - Class Year = 2007 or 2011
 - Gender = Male (1) or Female (2)
 - Self Prob = Rated Probability of Self Helping Person in Need
 - Carl Prob = Rated Probability of Average Carleton Student Helping
 - Males Help = Percentage of Males Expect to Stop and Help
 - Females Help = Percentage of Females Expect to Stop and Help
- All of the variables are scored in a trait-positive way. Thus high scores equal more SM, N, PG, and so on. The E, N, and C variables come from the Five Factor Model; the Happy variable from the sad-to-happy face measure (rated 1-7), and the last six psychological well-being variables from Ryff and Keyes's measure of well-being. The specific items constituting each of the Ryff and Keyes's well-being scales (AU to SA)

are listed in a resource on the course Moodle site.

- Most of the questions you will be asking should be able to be addressed by a correlational analysis. We conducted a correlational study, and most of you will be using a statistic assessing correlation for our data analysis (review Gleitman et al., pp. A12-A15). A correlation indicates whether there is a relationship between scores on two variables. Note, as the text indicates, that a correlation does not demonstrate causality.
- Go to the [Psychology Computer Laboratory in Olin 104](#) some evening. In the *Course icon* on your desktop, click on the *W08 folder*, then on the *PSYC folder*, then on the *Psyc110-02-w08 folder*, then the *Common folder*. Find the *P110.08.sav* file and drag it to your desktop. This copies it there. Open that file (in SPSS 16.0). To complete a statistical analysis, highlight *Analyze* on the list across the top of the page. To correlate two variables, highlight *Correlate* and then *Bivariate*. To compare the values on a variables between two groups, highlight *Compare Means* and then *Ind Samples t-Test*. Enter your grouping variable (the groups you are comparing) and then the dependent variable. If you need help making sense of your findings, consult the person in the Psychology Computer Laboratory or your teaching assistant or instructor.
- Write up your report of your findings. This report should (a) specify the question you are attempting to address, (b) indicate the importance of this question in light your reading on personality traits, (c) report the result(s) of your correlational analysis, and (d) suggest some issues your results now raise for further inquiry and reflection in this literature. *Please be certain to include all of the above in your report.*
- Even though your paper is only two pages long, I urge you to invest in your writing. Your writing should be clear and concise; it should show definite signs of organization and careful, well-grounded thinking. *Feel free to contact the instructor or course assistant for help with this assignment.*