

Course Project Assignment #3

Overview For this assignment, you will carry out a pilot study and write a brief report on how this goes. The goal of a pilot study is to test your study design on a very small sample before committing to gathering a full data set from a larger sample. Your report should summarize what went well and what changes, if any, you will make to your study design based on your pilot study experience.

Submit your pilot study report by Monday, April 7.

Suggestions

- You can test survey questions and techniques on willing volunteers rather than on randomly selected subjects.
- Pay attention to how much time is required to collect data for each subject. Feasibility in terms of time will be one criterion you use in determining a final sample size.
- You will need to stay organized as you start collecting data in a pilot study and the full study. Consider buying a bound notebook to record everything you do on this project, from notes on your ideas at this stage to data from the full study and everything in between.
- Come talk with me or send e-mail if you have questions or want help thinking things through.

Looking ahead Here's a rough outline of project steps with tentative deadlines:

- Pilot study progress report due Monday, April 7.
- Descriptive statistics report on your full data set due Monday, April 28.
- Final report due Wednesday, May 14 (at scheduled final exam time).