

STAT 150 Final Presentation Fall 2009

This final project is an oral presentation that you will be giving individually during the time scheduled for our final exam (Mon Dec 7 from 10:10-1pm). The main goal is to conduct background research on a topic discussed in *Super Crunchers* and then discuss and summarize that topic for the class. The topic you discuss should involve a statistical issue.

Your assignment has two components:

- **Research**

1. Find a topic/story of interest from *Super Crunchers* that involves a statistical study (observational or experimental or a survey).
2. **[Reference from *Super Crunchers*]** Do some background research on the topic/story. Ayers has a very thorough section of references (see *Notes*, pp 263 – 294) – start by looking here. If Ayers mentions an original source of the topic/story, be sure to find this original reference. If the reference is not explicitly described by Ayers (e.g. article title, journal source), you may need to do an internet search or a library search for the original research article. You are required to research at least one reference mentioned by Ayres. If you found the original research article, then this can serve as the required book reference.

Please be aware that Cal Poly's library subscribes to a large number of journals and also provides free electronic access to many journals through the `my.calpoly` portal. For example, if you know the title of the journal in which a particular article appeared, try using `http://lib.calpoly.edu/find/findit/citation.html`. We do not intend for you to have to pay for access to the original research article; feel free to see us for help with tracking it down.

3. **[External Reference]** Aside from the reference you selected in Step 2 above, you will be required to find at least **one additional** source of reference related to your topic, not mentioned in *Super Crunchers*. This external reference must add something to your knowledge of the topic, above and beyond what you learn in *Super Crunchers* and from the reference that you find from *Super Crunchers*. This may be something you discover in print or something online. You may find good possibilities by looking in the list of references from the original article or from any articles that you find from *Super Crunchers*. It may also be helpful to start with a Google search.

- **Prepare an oral presentation**

1. Summarize what the topic/story is about, what page(s)/chapter(s) you found it on, why you found it interesting, and what statistical aspects were involved.

Be sure to refer to the various statistical issues that we have talked about throughout this course, such as observational units, variables, type of study (observational, experimental), population and sample, graphical displays and numerical summaries, statistical significance,

scope of conclusions, ...

2. **[Reference from *Super Crunchers*]** If the story/topic was based on an original research article, describe what additional information you learned from your reading of the article that had not been revealed in *Super Crunchers*. Be sure to explicitly cite the reference in its entirety.

If an original research article does not exist, you are to research at least one of the references listed by Ayers in the *Notes* section. Discuss this reference and describe what additional information you learned from your research that had not been revealed in *Super Crunchers*.

3. **[External Reference]** Discuss the external reference you researched and describe what additional information you learned from your research that had not been revealed in *Super Crunchers* and from the reference that you find from *Super Crunchers*. Be sure to explicitly cite the reference in its entirety.
4. Prepare visual aids to accompany your presentation (outline, main points, conclusion, etc.), which should last for 4-6 minutes. Like always, please review the presentation advice and feedback provided earlier in the course as you prepare this presentation. We strongly urge you to consider using **PowerPoint** or other presentation software. Use large font (~16 pt) in your presentation.

Be sure to send the final version of your slides to Dr. Doi and Dr. Rossman prior to your presentation so that we may display the slides as you give your talk.

5. Provide both instructors with access to the articles/references that you discuss (e.g., with a photocopy or a web address), as well as to any visual aids that you prepare.

NOTES:

- Submit your selected topic (with page reference) via email to Dr. Rossman and Dr. Doi by **5pm on MONDAY 11/30/09**.
- Each student must have a unique topic. No duplicate topics will be allowed. Topics will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis. It will be to your advantage to read ahead and complete the book as soon as possible.
- To help you select an interesting topic without having to read the entire book, you may thumb through the references in the *Notes* section, and/or you may look through the topics shown in the *Index*. Then you may read the corresponding section(s) in the book to see if the topic is worthwhile for this project.