Answers to In-Text Questions: Essays

Chapter 2: Understanding Data: Critical Concepts

1. Identify two variables related to inequalities of race or ethnicity. For each variable, identify the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. How might analyzing these variables help to advance a social justice project?

   Correct answers to this question may vary widely, but should include the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. The wording of the survey question and the response categories are found by "Viewing" the variable. Depending upon the variables, the level of measurement is nominal (possibly a dummy variable), ordinal, or interval-ratio. In thinking about how these variables help to advance a social justice project, students might link their answers back to the discussion of "social justice statistics" in Chapter 1.

2. Identify two variables related to inequalities of gender or sexuality. For each variable, identify the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. How might analyzing these variables help to advance a social justice project?

   Correct answers to this question may vary widely, but should include the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. The wording of the survey question and the response categories are found by "Viewing" the variable. Depending upon the variables, the level of measurement is nominal (possibly a dummy variable), ordinal, or interval-ratio. In thinking about how these variables help to advance a social justice project, students might link their answers back to the discussion of "social justice statistics" in Chapter 1.

For questions 3, 4, and 5 below, choose a specific social justice issue that is important to you and find three variables in the GSS that are related to this issue.

3. View each of these variables (separately) and identify the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. Then, describe the resulting univariate frequency tables, including the extent of missing data.

Correct answers to this question may vary widely, but should include the precise wording of the survey question, the level of measurement, and the response categories. The wording of the survey question and the response categories are found by "Viewing" the variable. Depending upon the variables, the level of measurement is nominal (possibly a dummy variable), ordinal, or interval-ratio. The extent of missing data is also shown when Viewing a variable.

4. For each of these variables, identify the most appropriate measure of central tendency. Explain why you chose the measure of central tendency you did.

Correct answers will depend upon which variables students have selected, as well as their level of measurement. For nominal level variables, including dummy variables, the mode is most appropriate.

For ordinal and interval-ratio level variables, the mean or median would be appropriate.

5. Describe how an analysis of these three variables could contribute to a better understanding of the social justice issue you have chosen.

Correct answers will depend upon which variables students have selected. When connecting these variables to social justice issues, students might link their answers back to the discussion of "social justice statistics" in Chapter 1.