

Assignment #1

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This is a **closed book** assignment. You may **not** access course notes or the textbook. You may **not** search the internet. The goal of the assignment is to demonstrate that you have read and engaged with course materials. This assignment is worth 10 marks and **10%** of your final grade.

Using full sentences and based on course materials, **answer both of the following questions:**

- What are the **six steps** that a researcher follows in the preparation of their research project? Give an **example** of each of the steps. (5 marks)

1. What is my theory?

→ Ex. The increase in the cost of university tuition has caused less people to obtain a post-secondary education.

2. What is my hypothesis?

→ Ex. The increase in the cost of tuition at the University of Ottawa for their BA in Psychology has decreased their enrolment numbers.

3. What is my research question?

→ Ex. How does the cost of a BA in Psychology at the University of Ottawa influence their enrolment numbers?

4. How will this influence future studies?

→ Ex. By starting with one school (University of Ottawa) other researchers can look into the enrolment numbers of other schools versus their tuition costs to see if there is a similar relationship, and if changes need to be made..

5. What is the research puzzle I am trying to solve?

→ Ex. Causal Puzzle: in what ways does x affect y? In what ways does the cost of tuition affect the number of students enrolled?

6. What is the purpose of my research?

→ Ex. To find the reason for a decrease in high school students obtaining a post secondary education.

- Based on the chart below, in your answer identify the **independent** variable(s), the **dependent** variable(s), and briefly explain which **method** the researchers used and **why**. (5 marks)

In the research study shown the dependent variable is the median earnings of the Maritime university graduates. This is the variable being measured to see if it is affected by the independent variables.

The independent variables are the cohort, sex and education level of the students, and the year of their earnings. These are the variables being manipulated to see if they affect the dependant variable.

The method used by the researchers was a census, or survey. The surveys would have been sent out to the population of Maritime university graduates, and the results would have depended on the responses of this population. The questions on the survey would have been ones such as ‘when did you graduate?’, ‘what level of diploma did you obtain?’ and ‘how much money do you make in a year?’ This method would have been used to be able to obtain a larger group of data so that the results were more representative. This method also makes the research portion easier for the researchers, as it is less time-consuming for them, and more efficient.