

5 for 5

Then Free Response 2002 #2

Does listening to music improve GPA?



Some students at your school claim that listening to music while studying will help improve their GPA. Design a study to help discover if this claim is true.

Here are four proposed studies for investigating the question of the day. Suppose we found that the mean GPA of students who listen to music is significantly lower than the mean GPA of students who didn't listen to music. What conclusions could we make? Can we generalize and can we determine causation?

1. Get all the students in your statistics class to participate in a study. Ask them whether or not they study with music on and divide them into two groups based on their answer to this question.

Random sample? No Random assignment? No

Conclusion: *For students in this class, there is a correlation b/t listening to music and lower GPA*

** No Inference about pop OR Causation*

		Were individuals randomly assigned to groups?	
		Yes	No
Were individuals randomly selected?	Yes	Inference about the population: YES Inference about cause and effect: YES	Inference about the population: YES Inference about cause and effect: NO
	No	Inference about the population: NO Inference about cause and effect: YES	Inference about the population: NO Inference about cause and effect: NO

2. Select a random sample of students from your school to participate in a study. Ask them whether or not they study with music on and divide them into two groups based on their answer to this question.

Random sample? yes Random assignment? No

Conclusion: *For all students from your school, there is a correlation b/t listening to music + ↓ GPA* ** Inference about population*

3. Get all the students in your statistics class to participate in a study. Randomly assign half of the students to listen to music while studying for the entire semester and have the remaining half abstain from listening to music while studying.

Random sample? No Random assignment? yes

Conclusion: *For students in stat class, listening to music while studying caused a ↓ GPA. * Inference about causation*

4. Select a random sample of students from your school to participate in a study. Randomly assign half of the students to listen to music while studying for the entire semester and have the remaining half abstain from listening to music while studying.

Random sample? YES Random assignment? YES

Conclusion: For all students @ school, listening to tunes caused ↓ GPA

* Inference about pop & cause

Important Ideas

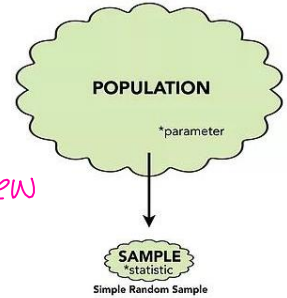
Inference

Random sample
- Infer/generalize to whole pop

Random Assign
- Allow to generalize about cause and effect

Data Ethics

- ① Confidential
- ② Informed consent
- ③ Institutional Review



1. When an athlete suffers a sports-related concussion, does it help to remove the athlete from play immediately? Researchers recruited 95 athletes seeking care for a sports-related concussion at a medical clinic and followed their progress during recovery. Researchers found statistically significant evidence that athletes who were removed from play immediately recovered more quickly, on average, than athletes who continued to play.

NO RA OR RS

(a) What conclusion can we draw from this study? Explain your answer.

All athletes in this study recovered more quickly when removed from play.

(b) Would it be ethical to conduct an experiment to answer this question? Explain.

No → you can't assign athletes to continue playing after they're injured.

2. Can eating nuts during pregnancy help children avoid nut allergies? Researchers studied over 8000 children who were born in the early 1990s to mothers who were part of the Nurses' Health Study II. Children whose mothers ate the most nuts during pregnancy (at least five times per week) were significantly less likely to develop nut allergies than children whose mothers ate the least amount of nuts during pregnancy (less than once per month).

(a) Does this study show that eating nuts during pregnancy causes a reduced risk of nut allergies in children?

No, not Random Assignment

(b) Would it be ethical to conduct an experiment to answer this question? Explain.

No → the babies R receiving treatment and they can't get informed consent

3. A researcher wants to conduct a study to test whether listening to soothing music for 20 minutes helps to reduce diastolic blood pressure in patients with high blood pressure, compared to simply sitting quietly in a noise-free environment for 20 minutes. One hundred patients with high blood pressure at a large medical clinic are available to participate in this study. Before the experiment, the researcher will record each patient's blood pressure.
- (a) The researcher knows there are some lurking variables that could affect the results of the study. Suggest a variable that could be used to block the patients into groups to reduce the affects of lurking variables. Justify your suggestion.
- (b) Describe how to implement a block design for this experiment using the blocking scheme you suggested in part b.