

Worksheet #1

Which Method Would You Use?

The following are examples of research methods used by psychologists: case histories, naturalistic observation, laboratory observation, surveys, tests, correlational studies, and experiments. For each situation, decide which method is appropriate and briefly describe why.

1. Determining the favorite food of adolescents.

Method:

Explanation:

2. Determining whether a person is introverted or extroverted.

Method:

Explanation:

3. Determining if frustration causes aggression.

Method:

Explanation:

4. Determining if level of education is associated with crime.

Method:

Explanation:

5. Determining how teenagers behave on their first date.

Method:

Explanation:

6. Determining the behavior of subjects who are anxious about participating in research.

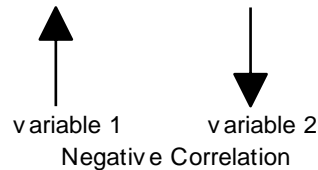
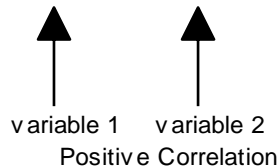
Method:

Explanation:

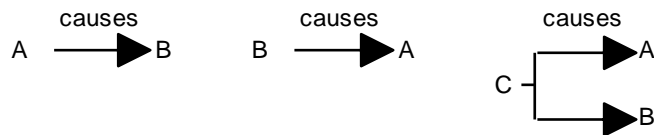
Worksheet #2

Understanding Correlations

Correlational studies show relationships between variables. If high scores on one variable predict high scores on the other variable, the correlation is *positive*. If high scores on one variable predict low scores on the other variable, the correlation is *negative*.



Showing that two variables are related does not justify claiming that a causal relationship exists. There may be a causal relationship, but other explanations usually exist. For example, the variables may be related because both have a causal relationship with a third variable.



For each of the correlational studies described below, decide whether the correlation is positive or negative and give two alternative explanations for each finding.

1. A study of married couples showed that the longer they had been married, the more similar their opinions on social and political issues were.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2:

2. An intelligence test was given to all the children in an orphanage. The results showed that the longer children had lived in the orphanage, the lower their IQ scores.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2:

3. In a study of American cities, a relationship was found between the number of violent crimes and the number of stores selling violence-depicting pornography.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2:

4. A college professor found that the more class absences students have, the lower their grade in the course tends to be.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2:

5. A politician running against a candidate who had been in office for eight years pointed out that violent crime had increased steadily during those eight years even though the administration appropriated more and more money to fight crime.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2:

6. It was found that elementary-school children who made high scores on a vocabulary test also tended to make high scores on a test of physical strength and muscular coordination.
Positive or negative?

Explanation 1:

Explanation 2: