

SUGGESTED COURSE EXTENSIONS

A. Reviewing

1. Find a journal article from your field about an application of a quantitative analysis. Identify the audience for that journal in terms of
 - a. their discipline(s).
 - b. their expected level of familiarity with the kinds of quantitative methods used in the article.
 - c. their expected use of the results (e.g., research, policy, education).
2. In that article:
 - a. Circle one numeric fact or comparison each in the introduction, results section, and concluding section. For each:
 - i. Identify its purpose. Does the author explicitly or implicitly convey the purpose, or is it left unclear?
 - ii. Evaluate the ease of understanding the fact or comparison. Does the author convey its meaning and interpretation?
 - b. Are there other places in the article where a number or numeric comparison would be helpful? Identify the purpose of the number for each such situation.
 - c. What tools (tables, charts, prose) are used to present numbers? Do they suit the objective and audience for the article?
3. Find an article in the popular press that refers to an application of a quantitative analysis. (The science and health sections of newspapers, magazines, and websites are good resources.)
 - a. Who is the intended audience (e.g., what is their expected reading level and amount of statistical training)?
 - b. What is the objective of the article?
 - c. Is the article written with appropriate vocabulary and examples for that audience?
 - d. What tools are used to present numbers in the article? Do they suit the objective and audience?



WHY WRITE ABOUT NUMBERS?