Jennifer Valad – Psychology 213W – Experimental Psychology, Writing Intensive

Lesson Plan

Psychology 213W is a course required for the major, and one of the W classes available at QC. It is the first in a 2 part class that focuses on the experimental process required in scientific research. Requirements consists of 4 APA-style lab reports, 6 in-class experiments, and lecture components on methodological terms and theory. The second class (Advanced Experimental) concentrates in the application of these ideas in a specialized field of psychology. My 2 main focuses for this lecture are the 2 parts of the course that students have trouble with – using SPSS (statistical software) and writing result sections. My overall hope for these 2 lectures is that the students learn how to do these 2 crucial components involved in analyzing and reporting psychological research, and that the students can go onto Advanced Experimental and do this same work without assistance (any maybe help their classmates :))

1. **SPSS**

This concept will chronologically be taught first, as you cannot write the result section without the data. Students are supposed to come in with a background in this, from statistics lab. First, I will assess the students' knowledge using the pretest, and then based on the results, I would expect this review to take 2 hours during 1 class period. Also, we will review these same concepts each time we run statistical analysis in my class (approximately 6-7 times over the semester).

Pre-Class assignment: Find your statistics lab manual and bring it to class

Learning Objectives:

After the lesson, students should be able to:

- Input data into the proper place
- Choose the correct test to use for the analysis
- Understand what the numbers on the output page represent
- Create a graph based on the data

In-class: Students will get a ½ hour to complete the pretest. As they complete the assignment, I will come around and check # 7 and # 8 (as I need to see what they entered). I will mark each individual's assignment. I will mark # 1-6 at home, and at the next class meeting, we will go through each question, concentrating on where the majority of the mistakes were made.

Post – test: Will be given the last day of class

2. **Results**

This concept will be an important part of the class, as 2 sections of the paper depend heavily on this being well done (the results itself and the discussion). Students are supposed to have written mock "result sections" based on data analysis in statistics, however, it is common to find that students have never done that. First, I will assess the students' knowledge using the pretest, and then based on the results, I will tailor the lesson. I would expect this lesson to take, in total, approximately 5 hours during the semester (probably 45 minutes for each of the 6-7 data analyses we complete).

Pre-Class assignment: None

Learning Objectives:

After the lesson, students should be able to:

- Use the right statistical information to create a results section
- Follow the general outline for a results section
- Interpret what the findings mean
- Draw conclusions for the discussion section

In-class: Students will get 1 hour to complete the pretest. I will mark the assignments at home, and at the next class meeting, we will go through each question, concentrating on where the majority of the mistakes were made.

Post – test: Will be given the last day of class