**Data Collection Project**

***Support Document: Step 1 - Introduction***

*Instructions: This document is meant to support you in Step 1 of the Data Collection Project.*

* *You may find it helpful to make a copy and answer the questions below (in the boxes).*
* *You may find it helpful to look at these questions as you write on a different document.*
* *You may decide to write the introduction first and check back here when you are done.*

1. **Your first job is to think of a topic, idea, or question. Allow yourself to be general. What do you want to know more about?**

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1. **Now let’s get a little more specific. Choose one quantitative variable that you could measure that would help you answer one of your topics, ideas, or questions. Describe it in a complete sentence.**

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1. **Check yourself! Are you sure your variable is quantitative?**

* The values of your variable should be numbers (not words or categories).
* You should be able to imagine at least 10 different reasonable values.
* Think about a possible average (mean) of your variable. It should make sense.

1. **Now you need to decide the population that you will investigate. Remember that the population is the entire group your results may apply to. It does not have to be the exact group you take your sample from.**

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1. **Check yourself! Is your population reasonable?**

* You should have access to a sample that is representative of this population with regards to the variable that you chose above.
* The population should be the biggest group that you think you will be able to generalize your results to.

1. **This is not the “Methods” section yet, but it’s good to plan ahead. A “sampling frame” is the group that you pick your sample from. What are some ideas for your sampling frame? Where will you pick your sample from?**

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1. **Now make some predictions!!**

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| Quantitative variable: What do you think the mean of your population is? |
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1. **So, let’s sum it up. You have decided the following things:**

* Topic (A):
* Population (D):
* Quantitative variable (B):
  + Predicted mean (G):

1. **It’s writing time. Take the information you have decided here and write it up into an interesting 1-3 paragraphs. You want to hook your reader, so this is also the place to explain why you are interested in your topic. If you have any background knowledge (or want to do any background research), this is the section to use it!**