

EXAMPLE HYPOTHESES WITH PROBLEMS

These hypotheses are taken from past research proposals I have received. What problems, if any, do you see with each one?

"THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION BETWEEN MATH AVOIDANCE AND MATH ANXIETY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ESPECIALLY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS."

"IT IS HYPOTHESIZED THAT CHILDREN WHO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN WILL BE BETTER PREPARED IN READINESS SKILLS FOR FIRST GRADE THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT ATTEND KINDERGARTEN."

"THIS STUDY HYPOTHESIZES THAT THE APPRAISAL AND COPING RESPONSES OF INDIVIDUALS TO SPECIFIC STRESSFUL EVENTS WILL BE A PREREQUISITE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE DIAGNOSED AS EITHER DEPRESSED OR NONDEPRESSED BY A PROFESSIONAL THERAPIST."

"WE PREDICT THAT MALES PERCEIVE PHYSICAL CONTACT MADE BY THE FEMALE (I.E. TOUCHING THE MALE'S ARM, KNEE, ETC.) TO BE SEXUAL IN MEANING; FURTHERMORE, WE PREDICT THAT AGGRESSIVE MALES ATTRIBUTE EVEN MORE SEXUAL INTENT TO THE CONTACT."

"WE PREDICT THAT MEN PERCEIVE PHYSICAL CONTACT TO BE MORE SEXUAL IN MEANING, AND MEN OFTEN JUSTIFY THEIR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR BY RATIONALIZING THEIR BEHAVIOR."

"PARTICIPATION OF 9-19 YEAR OLD YOUTH IN THE TEN BASIC 4-H D.O.T. NUTRITION LESSON SERIES WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THEIR DIETARY LEVEL."

"WILL THERE BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN CLASSROOM ABILITY GROUPING--USING TEACHER ASSIGNMENT--AS COMPARED TO STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES RELATING TO THE SUBJECTS GROUPED. AND IF DIFFERENCES ARE FOUND, WILL TEACHERS BE WILLING TO REGROUP ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION FOUND OR WILL THE TEACHER USE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM PREVIOUS YEARS TO GROUP STUDENTS--TOTALLY DISREGARDING THE STANDARDIZED SCORES?"

"IT IS HYPOTHESIZED IN THIS PROPOSAL THAT RECURRENT DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS IN CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN AS A PSYCHOSOMATIC OUTCOME OF FAMILY DYSFUNCTION."

"THE PROBLEM WILL BE APPROACHED FROM THE FOLLOWING HYPOTHESIS. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN COMMERCIALY PREPARED SPORTS DRINKS. VARIABLES LOOKED AT INCLUDE ELECTROLYTE REPLACEMENT, TOTAL PLASMA REPLACEMENT, AND PERFORMANCE ON A TIMED THREE MILE RACE."

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS TO DETERMINE AND COMPARE THE INCIDENCE OF BULIMIA AMONG TWO SEGMENTS OF AUBURN'S WOMEN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS--WOMEN IN SORORITIES (GREEKS) AND WOMEN WHO ARE NOT IN SORORITIES (INDEPENDENTS)--AND TO ASCERTAIN IF THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDES ABOUT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AMONG THE TWO GROUPS THAT MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE INCIDENCE OF BULIMIA."